

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LI.]

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MARRIAGES.

On the 4th March, at All Saints' Cathedral, Bathurst, N.S.W., by the Right Rev. Dean Marriott, CARL WILHELM GEORG, of Hongkong, to FLORENCE BEATRICE, eldest daughter of Doctor W. R. CORTIS, of Bathurst.

At Christ's Church, Ramsgate, on the 17th March, 1900, G. T. CROOK, late of Hongkong, to DORA EDITH ALLEN.

DEATH.

On the 19th April, at Swatow, M. BOYD BREDON, Commissioner of Customs, aged 45 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 23rd March arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Guelic*, on the 22nd April (30 days); the French mail of the 23rd March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, on the 22nd April (30 days); the American mail of the 31st March arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, on the 27th April (28 days); and the English mail of the 30th March arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 27th April (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Admiral Sir E. R. Fremantle, G.C.B., C.M.G., who arrived at Shanghai on the 17th inst. by the English mail on a trip round the world, left again on the 18th in the *Tungchow* for Weihaiwei, whence H.M.S. *Endymion* will take him to Japan.

H. M. Edgar left Hongkong on the 23rd instant for home via Singapore with time-expired crews from the fleet. H.M.S. *Bonaventure* left the same day for Manila. H.M.S. *Brisk* arrived in the harbour on the 25th inst. from Shanghai.

It is reported that the Boxer movement is spreading quietly but rapidly over the northern parts of China. Recruiting is being actively prosecuted northward from Peking by leaders of the Boxers. The Manchurian officials in Peking are said to be fully in sympathy with them.

Our Shanghai correspondent on the 26th instant telegraphed that the Hon. Sir Nicholas John Hannen, Chief Justice of Supreme Court for China and Japan, died at 8.15 p.m. that night.

M. DeFrance, French Minister at Bangkok, arrived at Saigon from Singapore on the 5th inst. to confer, it is said, with the Governor-General of Indo-China on the Franco-Siamese question.

The Empress Dowager moved with the Emperor and Heir Apparent to the I Ho Park on the 7th, though several memorials were sent in begging her not to leave the Palace on account of the disturbed state of the provinces.

H.M.S. *Alacrity* arrived in Nagasaki harbour on the 20th inst., with Admiral Seymour on board. Captain A. H. Smith-Dorrien, of the *Alacrity*, is to take temporary charge of the *Bonaventure*, now on her way to Manila, Captain Montgomerie, R.N., having been invalided home.

It is reported from Peking that the Chinese Government has proposed to close the Government Dockyard and Engine Works at Foochow, owing to considerations of finance. It appears, however, that the French engineers in the service of the dockyard are strenuously opposed to this measure.

Apart from plague there were no cases of communicable disease in Hongkong between the 14th and 21st instant. Of the 21 plague cases, 18 were in the City of Victoria and three outside; there were 16 deaths from plague during the week. From noon of the 21st to noon of the 27th inst. there have been 31 cases and 23 deaths.

A Tientsin resident writes that tremendous strides are being made with the Peiho River Improvement. There has already been a very marked rise, and it is expected when the rains come, they will practically flood the river, and so wash away all the superfluous mud and make it once more fit for navigation. The lighters now come up full, whereas they used to be only half-loaded.

A Japanese telegram, dated Seoul, 13th instant reports that a secret treaty has been signed between Russia and Corea. But this much is known, it continues, that Corea has agreed not to concede Kiosai-to to any other Power. It is understood that Russia's hasty change of front, in connection with the Masampo affair, was due to a move on her part to secure this treaty.

It is stated that Russia, having decided to start the work of evangelization in Corea, the Russian Minister has visited the Korean Foreign Minister to talk about the site for a Church. One Greek Church missionary has already arrived in Seoul and conducted on the 25th ult. at the Russian Legation the first baptism ceremony, the number of the Coreans who underwent it being about 150 men and women altogether.

News from Washington has it that orders will be issued by Secretary Long to the organizing board which will make arrangements for the establishment of a U.S. naval station at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. Rear Admiral Bradford, chief of the Bureau of Equipment, has brought to the attention of the department the importance of establishing a station at Pearl Harbour as promptly as possible, and it is in accordance with his recommendation that the board will be appointed.

The London Gazette announces the following change in the Consular Service in China:—Mr. Alexander Hosie, as Consul at Kiukiang; Mr. J. Noel Tratman, as Consul at Nanking; Mr. C. W. Campbell, as Consul at Wuchow; Mr. E. T. C. Werner, as Consul at Kiungchow; Mr. E. F. Bennett, as Consul at Ssumao; Mr. A. J. Snodius, as Consul at Yochow; Mr. G. D. Fitzpius, Vice-Consul at Shanghai; and Mr. W. P. Ker, Vice-Consul at Pagoda Island.

An Odessa correspondent states that among the officers of the Volunteer Fleet cruisers recently returned there from the Far East, there is a strong belief that the enormous garrisons being formed at Port Arthur, Dalni, and Vladivostok will shortly be utilised as a coercive lever for compelling the Japanese to abandon their pretensions and acquisitions in Corea. The Commander of one of the cruisers expresses his conviction that before, or by the end of the current year, Russian influence in the Far Eastern peninsula will have become so absolutely dominant that the Japanese will feel themselves morally constrained to give up the struggle and retire from the many important enterprises they are now prosecuting in Corea; and that will open the way for the gradual assumption of a Russian Protectorate.

We regret to learn that Mr. M. Boyd Bredon, Commissioner of Customs, died at Swatow on the 19th inst. Mr. Boyd Bredon was forty-five years of age and entered the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs in 1831, taking up the position of Private Secretary at the Inspectorate, Peking. In 1884 he was the assistant in charge at Hoihow, and he advanced by promotion until he was appointed commissioner. During the China-Japan War Mr. Boyd Bredon was commissioner at Chefoo, and as that was the nearest port to Weihaiwei, his responsibilities, during the siege of the latter place and the operations around Ninghai, greatly increased and were ably discharged. He returned from a holiday at home last year and was appointed to Swatow. The deceased was an able official, a relative of Sir Robert Hart, and has a brother in the same service who is the Deputy-Inspector-General at Peking.

According to *The North China Daily News* members of the Reform Party in Shanghai have received news from reliable quarters in Peking that when Viceroy Li Hung-chang received secret instructions from Prince Ching to send Admiral Yeh of the Peiyang squadron, who happened to be in Canton at the time, to proceed with two of his fastest cruisers, the *Haitien* and *Haishow*, to cruise in the vicinity of Singapore in order to assist the assassins on the track of Kang Yu-wei, Viceroy Li telegraphed back to Peking that he thought the plan impracticable—for the present at least—as the members of the Reform Party were on the alert and very watchful over the safety of their leaders. Viceroy Li's answer was a curt and imperative one to the effect that it was his duty simply to obey orders, and that he would be held responsible for any failure. The upshot was that Viceroy Li gave the orders, as he had received them, to Admiral Yeh, told the latter to do his best to obey orders and refused to hear the deprecatory reply of the Admiral. Finally Prince Ching is now making secret enquiries as to how the secret order of the Empress Dowager, with reference to such an important coup could have leaked out.

THE UNITED STATES AND COM-MERCIAL POLICY IN THE PACIFIC.

(Daily Press, 21st April.)

Touching recent developments in the Pacific Ocean, *Engineering*, a paper always well informed on American topics, recently said of the policy being pursued by the United States:—"The Americans, however, mean to have stations of their own in the Pacific, which will give them a commanding naval position. Already, as we have mentioned, Hawaii affords a half-way house, and there can be no doubt but that before long the Philippine Islands will become, not only an important naval station, but also a distributing station for the Far East, which may rival Hongkong. We need not enter into a discussion of the constitution which has been proposed for the Philippines, as a good deal might be said both for and against it; but of this we may be assured, that the United States Government will keep its hold on the islands in some form, and while they will be allowed a large amount of self-government, they will to all intents and purposes be under the dominion of the United States, and their future commercial policy will be an integral part of the policy of the United States. Their influence on the future of the trade in the Pacific area is certain to be very great, and it is not improbable that Manila will become a port of call for all the most important steamship lines. Indeed, that port may be considered the most central port of the entire Asiatic-Pacific coast, more so even than Hongkong and Shanghai, and nearer to the great range of southern and Australian ports. The possibilities of Manila as a distributing port are great, and so also are those of the Philippine Islands with their vast and varied undeveloped resources, which offer a most inviting field for the expansion of British and American trade. There has been a good deal of talk recently about an Anglo-Saxon alliance; but it is probable that there will not be much inclination on either side for a formal alliance, or even for hard and fast agreements on definite points. Common responsibilities and interests will afford a sufficient tie to bind the nations together, and it is to be hoped that their influence will always be used for the development of the welfare of humanity."

This, it may be said, represents the feeling of the best minds on either side. That there will from time to time occur subjects of difference, so long as England and the States preserve their independence as nations, must happen; such differences have happened before, but hitherto the good sense of both nations has prevented them from growing into sources of hostility. There is indeed a common foundation and a common method of reasoning which makes the two nations look upon affairs from a very similar point of view, and this common habit of reasoning very often leads, even in indifferent matters, to a common concurrence. This is shown very clearly by the similar division of both countries with regard to what in both may be called the struggle for Imperialism. In both there are perfectly conscientious and patriotic men, men too in the enjoyment of their fullest faculties, who look with horror on the expansion of their respective states. In both countries there is besides a minority of capacious politicians whose opposition springs from very much more contemptible reasons, and who, to gain their own private ends, would drag their respective countries

down to their own sordid level. On the whole these feelings of paltry jealousy do not count for much on either side of the Atlantic, and both are content to wait quietly till something really important, and leading up to some issue of profound importance intervenes between the nations before pressing to an issue a grievance. It was from feelings of this nature that the British Government, backed up by the British people, at once concurred in the abrogation of the CLAYTON-BULWER treaty; the need for the treaty had disappeared, and it had come to stand in the way of both countries. It had doubtless at one time a very good reason for existence, but that reason, whatever it was, had in the course of time disappeared, and both nations, each for its own purposes, desired that the work, once a bugbear to each, should be taken in hand. But who was to do it? This was the crucial question. Once upon a time it seemed likely that a trans-Isthmian canal was likely to be the outcome of private enterprise, but the breakdown of the LSSERS Company pointed out that the work was too vast, and too uncertain, to be privately undertaken; America, it was plain, was the first interested, and the American people, who have still a craze for the gigantic, were ambitious of embarking in the enterprise. It was unlikely that the people of England would so far depart from their distaste for permitting the state to undertake works not of actual national necessity, as to permit the government of the day even to entertain the idea. The policy of the United States had been undergoing a transformation, and successive governments came to look upon the matter as an early necessity, and matters were becoming ripe for the issue; it was no part of the dog in the manger, so all sections and parties tacitly agreed that no opposition should be offered to the States, should the Government at Washington seek to undertake the project. In order to do this it was incumbent that the treaty should be abrogated, and when Mr. HAY made the formal proposition, accompanying it with terms of neutrality similar to those which have stood the test of experience in the case of the Suez Canal, the proposal was formally accepted. The whole affair was an indication of the practical aspect of affairs by both governments. Washington felt it could rely on the business capacity of the British Minister, and at once made a practical suggestion, which Lord SALISBURY was able, without the suspicion of giving way, to accept in its entirety; and the result was that each got what it wanted. So matters stood, but there is in constitutional procedure a slight difference between the two administrations. In England the Crown, that is to say the Government of the day, has the constitutional power to make treaties, which, however, have subsequently to run the gauntlet of Parliament. In the States no treaty is of any effect till it has been approved by Congress. From some reason, peculiar to the States, it has curiously been the case that of late there have appeared tokens of a difference of feeling between the two Houses and the President, and not unfrequently the three are found to have on important matters divergent views. This divergence has been more especially apparent lately on questions of currency, and legislation has in consequence been delayed and useful measures postponed. It is not for an outsider to pass judgment on these matters, which concern the internal administration of the country itself, but the new treaty has shown how different, even on such a topic as the foreign relations of the State, may be the two houses. While in the House of

Representatives no doubt seems to have been raised as to the policy of the settlement, which left the Government untrammelled except as to the neutrality of the Canal, the Senate, usually the more judicial of the two houses, has evinced a spirit of what can be hardly better described than one of factious opposition. There is no doubt whatever that, had it not been for the acknowledgement of neutrality, neither Lord SALISBURY's nor any other British Government would have consented to the abrogation of the Treaty. This was so plain to Mr. MACKINLEY's administration, that Mr. HAY himself inserted it in the draft which he submitted. It is, however, unlikely that the Senate as a whole will accept the views of its more impracticable members, and the incident remains as an illustration of the difficulties which sometimes arise to prevent an American statesman carrying out the policy which he recognises as the best for his country. It is curious to observe too, that in the States, the upper House, with more fixity of election, frequently occupies the place of agitator, which in the older country is generally considered the prerogative of the more popular Assembly. Notwithstanding these momentary delays, it may be assumed that the Canal will, before long, pass into the practical stage, and that within the next dozen years we shall have, for good or evil, to accept a change little less far-reaching than that brought about by the opening of the Suez Canal. The change, as we have mentioned, is bound to be a serious one, and needs all our prescience and ability to prevent its being a serious challenge to our mercantile supremacy. More especially will this be the case in that important portion of our trade which centres in the Pacific. Have we, even as matters stand, taken our full share of the trans-ocean traffic? And are we not already dropping somewhat astern of our true position? In this connection the words uttered by our contemporary are worthy of deep consideration; the coming struggle will be one of giants, and we may rest assured that there is every indication that the United States will make use of all means in their power to diminish the share falling to Great Britain. With the States we can sympathise, as we can with no other people, and were the strife one of man against man we could heartily rejoice in every forward step taken, even at our own apparently momentary loss. Unfortunately, in the face of the present fiscal policy prevailing in the States, this is not what we have to fear, but the more serious, and in its effects more damaging to both countries, policy of a war of Tariff. That the United States are not far off the acceptance of a Free-Trade policy, as in the end the most beneficial to themselves, there are growing indications; but that the change will not come quickly, nor without a great upheaval, which will seriously threaten the well-being of the States, may be taken for granted. Meanwhile all that we can do is to possess our souls in patience, and calmly await the inevitable.

"Three Ratepayers" writes to *The Shanghai Mercury* about the road to the Hills, which was voted at the recent ratepayers' meeting at Shanghai. Unless the Council sees to it that the hills at the end of the road are left open to the public they call for a special ratepayers' meeting to annul the previous vote, for it is plain enough, they say, for any one to see that the hills are soon to be turned into a private preserve. It appears that the fencing and enclosure of property has already commenced. *The Mercury* sympathises with the views of its correspondents but thinks that the matter is one for the Council to take up.

HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED.

On the 21st inst. an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Shewan, Tomes and Co.), 9, Praya Central. Mr. R. Shewan presided, and there were also present Messrs D. Gillies, J. H. Lewis (Directors), A. Babbington, C. Ewins and E. Kelly.

The CHAIRMAN said he begged to propose that the resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 3rd April be now confirmed as a special resolution. The resolution was as follows:—That the new regulations, already approved by this meeting and for the purpose of identification subscribed by the chairman thereof, be and the same are hereby approved and that such regulations be and the same are hereby adopted as the regulations of the Company to the exclusion of all the existing regulations thereof.

Mr. GILLIES seconded and the motion was carried.

This was all the business.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong Hotel Company, Limited, was held on the 24 inst. at noon. Mr. R. C. Wilcox presided and there were also present: Messrs. W. Parfitt (director), H. W. Looker (the company's solicitor), C. Mooney (Secretary), E. Georg, W. Hutton Potts, C. Palmer, J. H. Lewis, F. Henderson, P. Jordan, R. S. Philpott, J. C. Peter, J. E. Gomes, G. T. Veitch, Hart Buck, Ho Fook, Ho Kom Tong, Lo Cheung Shiu, Chan Chan Nam, and Sang Kee.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, in the absence of the Chairman, who is serving on the jury at the Supreme Court, it has fallen to my lot to preside. The business before the meeting is very simple. It is merely to confirm the special resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting of the company held on the 27th ult., which will now be submitted for confirmation. Therefore, I have merely got to propose the following as a special resolution:—"That the New Regulations already approved by this meeting, and for the purpose of identification subscribed by the Chairman thereof, be and the same are hereby approved, and that such Regulations of the Company to the exclusion of all the existing Regulations thereof."

Mr. LEWIS—I have much pleasure in seconding.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That closes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I have to thank you for your attendance.

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Agents, Messrs. Lütgens, Einstmann & Co., have received the following Report, dated 17th March, from the Mining Manager, Mr. T. Waters:—

During the past fortnight the contractors at the Great Eastern Main Shaft have advanced the bottom level a further distance of 3ft. 6in. making a total of 134ft. 6in. from crosscut. The reef in the face is very much broken at present, there being only leaders of quartz interspersed through the formation. On the 15th inst. the foul air became so bad that it was impossible for the contractors to continue working in the face, even when the fan was continually at work. After conferring with Mr. Best we decided to discontinue operations at this point, and drive the tunnel as speedily as possible, and if advisable with an air shaft or winze from the tunnel to intersect the bottom workings.

Tunnel.—The tunnel has been advanced 19ft. from starting point on a level channel three feet wide, carrying leaders of quartz intermixed through the formation.

Caledonian Main Shaft.—The opening out, or frame-set, has been fixed in position, and the shaft-timber completed to the bottom of the well-hole. The cage and trucks have been cut and made smaller to suit the shaft, which has caused considerable delay, but they are now working satisfactorily. The contractors at this shaft have advanced the bottom level north a further distance of 15ft., making the present face 36ft. from the crosscut. The reef in the face is fully three feet in thickness, and from samples taken I should judge it to be worth eight dwts. to the ton. We have twenty tons of quartz from this level at the battery ready for crushing.

The contractors have advanced the bottom level south a further distance of 20ft., making a total of 29ft. from crosscut. The reef in the face of this level is getting more defined, being now one foot six inches in thickness, containing a little gold too poor to put through the battery, but, judging from the appearance of the face, we should see an improvement in this level shortly.

Caledonian Underlie Shaft.—The reef in the stope at the 120ft. level measures one foot eight inches in thickness, worth from eight to ten dwts. to the ton; we have eight tons of this stone at the surface. A little delay has been caused by foul air in this shaft, and we are at present engaged putting an air-shaft down through the old stopes, which will ventilate this part of the Mine. After the trial crushing is put through the mill, it will be necessary to sink the underlie shaft to connect with the bottom 150ft. level at the Caledonian Main Shaft, a distance of about 80ft.

Battery.—We have arranged to put through a crushing from the Woods-flat Mine situated about one mile and a half from Woodstock Railway Station, fifteen tons of which has been delivered at the battery, and we expect the remainder of the stone to arrive daily. I have previously reported on this mine. After the above has been treated, we will be ready to start the battery on our trial crushings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

REGINA v. GHEBA KHAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—Having regard to the remarks made by the Chief Justice from the Bench yesterday respecting the conduct of Captain Roweroff of the Hongkong Regiment in rendering assistance to me in procuring evidence for the defence, I consider it my duty, in justice to that gentleman, to endeavour to make it clear that, principally owing to the fact that Captain Roweroff was not at liberty to make statements, but could only answer questions in the witness box, the Chief Justice entirely misconceived the action of Captain Roweroff in the matter.

Upon his cross examination by the Attorney General he admitted that he had assisted me in obtaining the evidence of witnesses for the defence and he further said, in answer to a question, that he had given no information to the prosecution; on which fact great stress was laid by the Attorney-General, with the result that the Chief Justice formed the erroneous impression that Captain Roweroff had, throughout, manifested too great an interest in the prisoner and an insufficient desire to further the ends of justice. It may be also that the impression was created, or will possibly be created in the minds of the readers of the report of the proceedings in your paper, that Captain Roweroff was mainly instrumental in obtaining legal assistance for the prisoner.

Under these circumstances I consider it incumbent upon me to make known publicly the real facts of the matter. In the first place I was employed for the defence by the friends and countrymen of the prisoner, and I believe it was not until I appeared at the Magistracy that it was known to any of the officers of the Hongkong Regiment that I was so employed. The officer of that Regiment then deputed to watch the proceedings was not Captain

Roweroff but one of the lieutenants, and it was not until some considerable time afterwards that I saw, or had any communication whatever with Capt. Roweroff with reference to the case. Upon that occasion I had gone to Kowloon for the express purpose of obtaining all the information I could which might be of assistance to me in preparing the case for the defence of the prisoner, and I there saw the colonel of the Hongkong Regiment who, after some conversation with me, expressly directed Capt. Roweroff in my presence to render me every assistance he could in obtaining evidence for the purposes of the defence—Capt. Roweroff then took me to the barracks where I interviewed the Jemadar who gave evidence at the trial, and having carefully enquired into and considered the matter I subsequently gave to Capt. Roweroff a list of the persons whose evidence I required, the most important of whom I had already, before meeting Capt. Roweroff, sent for and examined in my office.

It will thus be seen that it was I who sought out Capt. Roweroff, not he who volunteered assistance to me. Had the prosecution instead of placing the blind reliance they did upon the evidence of the two main witnesses on their behalf, taken the trouble to make the same enquiries that I made, and endeavoured to satisfy themselves as to the credibility of those two witnesses, there is not the least doubt that they have procured, through the assistance of Capt. Roweroff, precisely the same information that I obtained. It cannot be supposed for a moment that either he or the Colonel of his Regiment would have refused such assistance, but, as Capt. Roweroff stated in the witness box, "it was not his duty to give" (unasked) help to the prosecution in getting up their case." It certainly appears to me that it was not his duty, after having assisted me at my request and upon the orders of his Colonel in obtaining evidence for the defence, to voluntarily go and inform the prosecution of the nature of that evidence. Had he done so I should have had most just cause of complaint against him. I trust that I have now made it sufficiently clear that Captain Roweroff in trying, as he said he did, "to get evidence for the defence" in no way neglected or exceeded his duty, but that whatever he did was done by him at my request and in pursuance of orders given him by his colonel and further, as he himself stated in the witness box, "in order to arrive at the truth."

Trusting also that you will accord space in your columns to this letter,—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

CHAS. D. WILKINSON,
Solicitor for the prisoner Gheba Khan,
70, Queen's Road, Hongkong,
Hongkong, 26th April, 1900.

THE MAINTENANCE OF ROADS IN 1899.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—In his report for 1899 on the maintenance of roads and bridges in Victoria, the Director of Public Works states that "the roads in the city were kept in fairly good order during the year." This remark can hardly apply to Queen's Road East, the roads there, especially between the Cricket Ground and Arsenal Street, and along the Praya at Wan-chai, being in a wretched condition.

As these roads are frequented every afternoon by all classes of the public, on foot, on bicycles, in rickshaws and carriages, for the purpose of enjoying the evening breezes at San-kiwan, or on their way to the various recreation grounds, they are of all the roads in the colony the most important, and should always be kept in the best condition possible. The fact that they are practically the only roads in Hongkong available for cyclists must also not be lost sight of, and as their number is daily on the increase, their needs deserve some consideration. The above remarks regarding the condition of the roads in question apply with hardly less force in the case of any form of vehicular traffic.

I trust this grievance will attract the attention of the authorities and be remedied without delay. I beg to enclose my card.—I remain, your obedient servant,

PRO HONO PUBLICO.
Hongkong, 26th April, 1900.

ALICE MEMORIAL AND NETHERSOLE HOSPITALS.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

D. Saisoon, Sons & Co.	\$100
"Dinner Balance" (B. & S.) ...	61
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. ...	50
Canadian Pacific Railway Co. ...	50
Meyer & Co.	50
Nippon Yusen Kaisha ...	50
P. & O. S. N. Co.	50
Reuter, Bröckelmann & Co.	50
Siemssen & Co.	50
Standard Oil Co. of New York ...	50
Abdoolally Ebrahim & Co.	25
D. Nowrojee ...	25
D. Gillies ...	25
F. Bornemann ...	20
Lamke & Rogge ...	20
A. M. Essabhoj ...	10
Carmichael & Co.	15
J. R. Crook ...	15
A. J. Jackson ...	5
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	100
Butterfield & Swire ...	100
Holliday, Wise & Co. ...	100
Reiss & Co.	100
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	100
Scottish Oriental S. S. Co.	50
Arnhold, Karberg & Co.	50
Carlowitz & Co.	50
Eastern Extension A. & C. Tel. Co., Ltd ...	50
Johnson, Stokes and Master ...	50
J. Black ...	10
Bismarck & Co.	10
Eastern Manufacturing Co.	10
G. Murray Bain ...	25
Banque de l'Indo-Chine ...	25
F. Blackhead & Co.	25
Bradley & Co.	25
W. Brewer & Co.	25
D. S. Dady Burjor ...	25
Cawasjee, Palanjee & Co.	25
Dodwell & Co., Limited ...	25
Fairall & Co.	25
Chai On Marine Insurance Co., Ltd. ...	20
C. J. Gaupp & Co.	20
Madam Musso ...	15
H. A. Esmail & Co.	10

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

"C" MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

The April shoot of "C" Machine Gun Company for the "Capt. Potts" Cup resulted in Company Sergeant-Major Rodger registering his first win on this cup. The best scores were:—

	200 yards.	400 yards.	500 yards.	Handicap.	Total.
* S. M. Rodger	26	28	31	14	99
* Gunner McCorquodale	26	31	25	12	94
Gunner J. Lee	24	23	26	21	94
Gunner Shoolbred	29	23	23	17	92
Gunner Gidley	29	29	16	15	89
Gunner C. Lee	27	24	17	21	89

* Winners of Spoons.

It is hoped that the Singapore-Kranji line, the first sod of which was cut on the 16th inst., will be extended through Johore to the Native States, and ultimately to Burmah and India. The *Singapore Free Press* enthusiastically says: "In two years we shall be able to order our Malay curry tiffins at Johore at 10 a.m., take our guests over by rail to the capital of the Malay State, and be back in town for tea."

Marguis Ito, according to statements attributed to him by the *Chiue Shimbun*, has lost his faith in the probabilities of China's integrity being preserved. The Manchu Government is going from bad to worse, his Excellency thinks, and all hope of seeing it adopt an intelligent remedy must be abandoned. The more the pity, for, as we still quote, a little enlightened and resolute statesmanship could still save the situation. Marguis Ito has always been a believer in his friend Li Hung-chang. But he seems to think now that Li's day is passed.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

On Saturday, the 21st inst., a third and last attempt was made to sail off the Bonito Cup, for which ten yachts again started. All except the Maid Marian got away to a good start before a light easterly breeze. The helmsman of the Maid Marian sadly miscalculated his distance from the line and was well left and could not get through on the run to west end of Stonecutter's. Erica slipped away at a great pace pursued by Gloria, with the Dart next and the rest in a bunch. Nothing of note occurred until the leader was about half way between Stonecutter's and the mark boat, except that Captain Des Voeux managed to run the Payne ashore just beyond the rifle range and thus extinguished her chance. As they were all leisurely reaching over to the mark boat with the wind on the port beam, a curious black cloud was seen coming up from Lantau and in a very short time all were struck by a furious squall from the west and away they went on the starboard tack, most of them staggering along with their booms dragging in the water. The Erica being ahead at the time got the squall first and sounded the mark boat about three minutes ahead of Gloria and carried the full weight of the squall right up the harbour, while those in the rear had it much lighter. Just as Erica took in her spinnaker to round Meyer's Buoy, a distance of nearly a mile from where they were, the west wind left them. Iris did well in the beat in the light air and caught the Maid Marian.

The official timing at the finish was:—

	H.	M.	S.
Erica (winner of cup) ...	4	40	44
Dart ...	4	55	25
Gloria ...	4	55	40
Iris ...	4	59	32
Maid Marian ...	4	59	40
Active ...	5	4	24
Princess ...	5	9	55

Payne and Meteor gave up.

On Sunday, April 22nd, was sailed the final club race over course No 19, i.e. a mark boat off Lyeemoon Kowloon Rock and the Lyeemoon mark again, all to be left to starboard. There was a light easterly wind at the start which gradually freshened into a nice comfortable whole sail breeze. The race was practically a match in the first class between the Bonito and Maid Marian and in the second class between the Meteor and the Dart, they being so far ahead that it was impossible for them to be anything but first and second. In the first class Erica and Gloria were first across the line at the Pier end, Bonito and Maid Marian crossing on the starboard tack near the mark boat, the former having succeeded in pinning her rival under her lee. At Blackhead's Pier Bonito on the port tack would have just met Erica on the starboard but the latter courteously went round some time before they met, subsequently giving way to the Maid Marian on two occasions. The Gloria worked into the Dock Bay, keeping ahead of the Maid Marian, but finding herself behind Bonito when they met off the point. Iris had been working the south shore but did very badly there. Gloria, and Maid Marian stood on a long board into Quarry Bay, where they got a good lift and at one time looked as if they were far ahead of Bonito, who kept more to the north shore and proved to have considerably the best of it when the other two crossed over. The first mark was rounded by Bonito three minutes and twenty seconds before the Maid Marian, who was about a minute behind Gloria. On the run to Kowloon Dock Gloria picked up a little on Bonito but the Maid Marian, keeping too close under the north shore, got heavy up for a bit and the first three rounded the rocks in the same order, Gloria being only a minute behind Bonito, who had increased her lead on the Maid Marian to four minutes and ten seconds. Bonito went a straight course for the line, close to North Point and from that straight in, as there was practically no tide, which was easily to be seen from the way the shipping was swung. Gloria however, from North Point stood across into Hunghom Bay and worked up inside as if a strong ebb tide were running, and the Maid Marian made a last despairing bid for a fluke by keeping along as far as possible to the north, but it was no avail and the first class finished as under.

Yacht.	Time			No of marks.	Total marks.
	H.	M.	S.		
Bonito	3	50	1	10	534
Gloria	3	53	15	4	4
Maid Marian	3	55	35	1	45
Erica	3	57	27		28
Iris	3	59	13		23
Doreen	4	3	59		19
Chanticleer	did not start.				74
Active					0

The Bonito thus wins the first prize and championship, the Maid Marian being second and the Erica third.

In the second class the racing was uneventful, but the finish was close, Meteor only saving her time by 28 seconds, as she allows the remainder 20 secs. a mile, i.e. 4 min. 40 secs. on this course, which is 14 miles.

The times of finishing of the second class were:—

Yacht	Time	No. of marks.	Total marks.
Meteor ...	H. M. S. 4 9 7	10	73
Dart ...	4 14 15	4	65
Princess ...	4 17 5	1	2
Payne ...	4 20 30	0	18
Ladybird (did not start)		0	19

HONGKONG.

There were 1,818 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 567 were non-Chinese.

The young Siamese princes who have been stopping at the Hongkong Hotel left for Canton on the 23rd inst. in charge of Mr. James (who was formerly a master at Queen's College here) and Mr. Carter. They returned to Hongkong at the end of the week.

Our readers will regret to learn that when returning from leave Mr. W. Machell, one of the assistant masters at Queen's College, had to go ashore at Colombo through illness and was in hospital four weeks. He is expected to arrive in Hongkong by the next German mail.

The following regulations respecting the importation of dogs into the colony are published in the *Gazette*:—1.—Shanghai. No dog brought from the Port or Settlement of Shanghai will be permitted to land in this colony for a period of six months from the 7th April, 1900. 2.—Unclaimed dogs. Any dog unclaimed within a fortnight of the expiration of the period of quarantine may be sold by the Sanitary Board to defray expenses; or, if unsaleable, may be destroyed.

The Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli was a passenger by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer *Maria Valerie*, which left on the 23rd inst. for Italy. His Lordship goes home for a short furlough in consequence of ill-health, brought on by many years of hard work in the East. He expects to be back in Hongkong in November next. He was the recipient of an address on the 21st inst. from members of his congregation. We shall all hope that Bishop Piazzoli will return at the end of the year entirely restored in health and energy.

On Saturday night the 21st inst., a meeting was held at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong, Praya Central, for the purpose of continuing the discussion on the paper read by Mr. T. E. C. Wilkes at a previous meeting on "Water-tube boilers or steam generators." Mr. A. Ramsey, M.I.M.E., occupied the chair, and he was supported by Messrs. A. Bain, Murphy, W. C. Jack, T. E. C. Wilkes, and Owen Ordish. Among those who took part in the discussion were Messrs. Bain, Winterburn, Murphy, Jack, and two or three naval men. The opinions expressed as to water-tube boilers varied. Mr. Jack observed:—"It is much to be regretted that the most successful of these boilers should come to us from abroad, for, however much we may appreciate the energy and scientific working of our Continental friends, it is not unreasonable to expect that the country which first gave birth to and perfected the steam engine, should advance with the times, and not be bound for ever by insular prejudice. Such prejudice has, I am convinced, been a check on advancement; otherwise we should ere now have had a home-made reliable water-tube boiler worthy of the name." A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Wilkes for his paper, and a vote of thanks was also accorded the chairman.

Lieut. Col. R. H. Bertie and the officers of the 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers were at home at Murray Barracks on Saturday afternoon, the 21st inst., when an assault at arms took place.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that Her Majesty the Queen has graciously approved of the appointment of the Honourable C. P. Chater, C.M.G., to be an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

Geo. A. Vannier a fireman on board the British ship *Saint Irene*, had been summoned to appear at the Harbour Office on the 25th inst. to answer a charge of leaving the ship without permission on the 23rd inst. He, however, did not appear and a warrant for his apprehension was issued.

John Griffen, fireman on board the British ship *St. Irene*, was summoned to appear at the Harbour Office on the 21st inst. to answer a charge of disobeying the lawful commands of the master (Captain Attree) and leaving the ship without permission on the 23rd inst. and assaulting J. W. Hay, the fourth engineer, on the 5th inst. at Yokohama. The defendant did not appear and a warrant for his arrest was granted.

At the Magistracy on the 24th inst. the landlord of the Hunghom Hotel was fined \$25 for supplying drink to a drunken person. Sergeant Macdonald said that at about half-past nine on the evening of the 10th inst. he was standing opposite the Hunghom Hotel when he saw three British and four American sailors inside. One of the Americans was drunk and staggering about the house. He went to the bar and asked for two pints of beer, which was served to him by the defendant. The man had to hold to the counter while he was drinking the beer. The Sergeant then entered the house and spoke to the defendant, who said he had not served the man with any drink.

At the Magistracy on the 20th inst. a Chinaman employed as a boy in an hotel in the city was charged with throwing some burning liquid into the face of a woman residing in Third Street. It appears that the parties were acquainted with each other. On the night of the 14th inst. the defendant went to see the complainant, and asked her to go away with him. This she refused to do and he then threatened that he would do for her. The following night, as she was entering the house, he rushed at her and as she was ascending the stairs he followed her and threw some liquid on to her. Immediately afterwards she found that her face, neck, and clothing were burned. She made a complaint to Inspector Baker, who ordered the arrest of defendant. The case was adjourned.

During the last few days the police have succeeded in getting hold of quite a number of fire-arms and a large quantity of ammunition, evidently intended for distribution among the lawless characters in China. On the 20th inst. three men were caught in a fishing boat near Chin Wan in possession of two rifles, 60 revolvers, 15,000 rounds of ammunition, and 400 lbs. of gunpowder. They were brought before Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 23rd inst. and fined \$10 each, or three months, the master being also fined \$25, or a month, on each of two other charges. Two other cases were also dealt with and heavy fines imposed. In the one case a Chinese detective was walking along Praya West at about half past nine on Saturday night when he saw ten men carrying bundles. He stopped one of the men, whereupon the other nine threw down their bundles and ran away. The bundles were found to contain 70 Mauser rifles. In the other case Sergeant Macdonald and a party of police saw a sampan close to Stone-cutter's Island on Saturday afternoon, and suspecting that something was wrong the police got into a boat and made for them. There were four men in the sampan, and when they found out that they were being followed they put up a second sail, seized the oars, and endeavoured to get away. The police, however, gained upon them, and seeing that they were likely to be caught the men ran ashore at Taiho Island, and clambered up the hill-side, taking some rifles with them. The police, however, managed to catch one of the men. In the sampan were found two revolvers (loaded), one Mauser rifle, six bayonets, 400 lbs. of gunpowder, 230 boxes of rifle ammunition, and 105 boxes of revolver ammunition.

Major S. F. Clark, R.A.M.C., has been appointed Acting Medical Officer of Victoria Gaol during the absence of Dr. J. C. Thomson.

H. E. Senhor Galha do, late Governor of Macao, arrived shortly after five p.m. on the 22nd inst., with his family, by the Portuguese gunboat *Zaire*. He was received by Senhor A. G. Romano, Portuguese Consul General, at Wardley Street Wharf. His Excellency proceeded by the French Mail next day to take up his post at Goa.

We hear that Mr. Herbert Smith (of Messrs Butterfield & Swire) is a candidate for the representation of the Chamber of Commerce in the Legislative Council vice Mr. T. H. Whitehead, on leave of absence. Report has it that the head of Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co. will propose, and the Chairman of the Chamber second, his nomination.

The American sailor who was charged with stabbing a Russian sailor at the Sailors' Home last week was again brought before Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 24th inst. His Worship said the medical testimony was to the effect that the wound was not a large one and was but half an inch deep. The defendant would, therefore, be fined \$30 or six weeks.

Messrs. Lamke and Rogge kindly informed us on the 23rd inst. that they are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Saigon that twelve days' quarantine is now imposed on all arrivals from Hongkong, including passengers. Late in the evening a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* was issued giving the following telegram, received from H.B.M. Consul, Saigon: "Hongkong quarantine twelve days."

A correspondent writes complaining of the offensive odour prevailing in the neighbourhood of Lower Castle Road, and says: "Whatever the cause it must have occurred to the Inspector of Nuisances in charge of the district that there was something out of the ordinary. I hope that the nuisance will be speedily removed, as any further delay may be detrimental to both residents and passers by."

A strict house-to-house visitation by the Police, acting under the direction of the Principal Medical Officer, was commenced on the 21st inst. in No. 2, Wanchai District. The object of the visitation is to seek out any possible plague cases hidden from the authorities. We are pleased to see that the Sanitary Department is commencing systematic work to prevent a repetition of the epidemic during the coming summer.

O Porvir makes a good point when it calls attention to the increased height of the houses owing to the overcrowding of the city. More stories are required to get more people into the same space, and so old and commodious houses are pulled down to make room for narrow four-storied erections, for each floor of which as much as \$30 a month is asked. Even employees of the Sanitary Board, it says, are compelled to live in surroundings which infringe the laws of the health owing to the impossibility of getting house-room elsewhere.

At the Magistracy on the 25th inst. Chan Yung Shing, master of the *Kam Sang* steamer-launch, was charged with carrying more passengers than his license permitted him to carry. His license said he could carry 105 passengers within the waters of the colony, 71 within the local trade limits, and 26 outside the local trade limits. The launch runs to Ngau Tau Shang in Mirs Bay, and the other day there were found to be 116 persons on board. The point was raised as to whether, now that Mirs Bay was included in the waters of the colony, the defendant had the right to carry 15 passengers instead of 76 as heretofore. The case was adjourned for a week.

Another armed robbery was reported to the police yesterday morning. A man residing at Sui Chin Wan, which is half-way between Quarry Bay and Shauiwan, called at the Police Station at Shauiwan and informed the police that on Wednesday midnight eight men armed with revolvers broke into his house and stole \$400 in money and jewelry, and clothing to the value of \$300; in all \$700. The police at the different stations were informed and a sharp look-out was instituted. Sergeant Lacock, who was successful in securing the men who perpetrated the armed robbery at the Coffee Plantation at Causeway Bay recently, had the good fortune to secure three of these robbers also, some of the stolen property being found in their possession.

We have received the Annual Report of the Tungkun Medical Missionary Hospital, which shows well what useful work is being performed by this branch of the Rhenish Missionary Society about Tungkun.

At the Harbour Office on the 20th inst. the adjourned enquiry into the circumstances connected with the charge against Kwan Kan, master of the steam launch *Hongkong*, belonging to the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, of negligence in the navigation of his boat, took place. The complainant, Major Riley, failed to appear, and the case was dismissed.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 13th April.—Silk.—Tsatlees and Reels.—A few settlements of New Season's Silk are reported, but no details have transpired. Filatures.—The market has been exceedingly dull during the fortnight under review. News from Lyons continued unimproved, and the dealers wishing to sell had to make considerable concessions. Prices declined \$50 to \$60 per picul, and the market closed weak and with a still declining tendency. From prices paid quotations are: \$930 for Kwong Shun Cheong and Kwong Shun Hang 11/13, Sun Yue Lun and Kwong Po Kee 9/11, \$960 for Cheong Kce 9/11, \$950 Kwong Ho 13/15, \$940 for Man Po Sing 16/18, \$920 for Kwong Wa Lun, Shoi Him Wo, Han King Sing and Shun Kce 13/15, \$880/860 for Kouin King and Wai King Wo 18/22, \$810 for Quan Hing 11/13. Short reels.—Best and Good No. 2 chops have been in fair enquiry. From prices paid quotations are: \$930 for Kum King Cheong 14/16, \$925 for Yun Wo Cheong 14/16, \$910 for Tack Wo Cheong 14/16, and \$895/890 for Kwai King Lun, Cheong Lun and Quan On 14/16. Waste.—A considerable business has been done during the first part of the fortnight, and about 1,600 bales have been settled. Dealers tried to obtain higher prices, but buyers refusing to go on, even on the former level, they had to give way, and prices close weak and irregular. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' sight, 1/11½, and Fc. 2.50½ per Dollar:—

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—The upward tendency continues, the market being good. Quotations for Formosa are: \$97.80 to \$97.90; sales 370 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—Prices are further declining, the market being dull. Quotations are:—
Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.85 to \$7.00 cl.
do. " 2, White... 7.15 to 7.20 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.35 to 5.40 "
do. " 2, Brown... 5.20 to 5.25 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.50 to 7.95 "
do. " 1, White... 7.20 to 7.25 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 5.25 to 5.30 "
do. " 2, Brown... 5.10 to 5.15 "
Foochow Sugar Candy..... 11.70 to 11.75 "
Shekloong " 9.80 to 9.85 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Galvus*, sailed on the 4th April. For London:—4 266 bales hemp, 200 bales waste silk, 70 bales canes, 30 rolls matting, 25 cases essential oil, 4 cases cigars and 44 packages sundries. For London option Manchester:—300 bales waste silk. For London option Hamburg:—40 bales galangal and 125 bales turmeric. For Manchester:—120 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—7 packages private effects. For Colombo:—7 cases dried fruit.

Per steamer *Saxonia*, sailed on the 5th April. For Havre:—5 cases bristles, 10 bales bamboo, 15 packages tea, 20 bales jute, 24 cases blackwoodware, 29 cases human hair, 36 packages canes, 41 cases Chinaware, 48 cases cassia lignea, 127 bales hides, 170 bales broken cassia, and 217 rolls mats. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—3 cases blackwoodware, 4 cases Chinaware, 7 cases ylang ylang, 12 cases human hair, 80 bales turmeric, 127 bales feather, and 137 rolls mats. For Havre and/or London:—9 bales cow hides. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—100 cases gallnuts, and 1,252 cases camphor. For Havre and/or Antwerp and/or Hamburg:—9 bales cow hides. For Hamburg:—1 case blackwoodware, 2 cases bambooware, 4 cases wax, 7 cases private effects, 15 cases

essential oil, 18 cases Chinaware, 40 cases bristles, 47 cases preserves, 48 cases cigars, 48 rolls mata, 55 rolls matting, 67 bales galangal, 150 cases taranised, 172 cases firecrackers, 250 cases cassialigna, 285 bales feathers, 336 packages canes, 829 cases camphor, and 1,140 packages merchandise. For Hamburg and/or London: 6 cases human hair and 165 bales strawbraid. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp: 50 cases bristles. For Rotterdam: 1 box curios. For Lisbon: 15 cases Chinaware.

Per steamer *Heidelberg*, sailed on the 11th April. For Havre: 1 box tea, 3 cases Chinaware, 4 bales feathers, 5 cases China ink, 10 cases human hair, 14 bales bamboos, 25 cases staranised, 101 packages canes, 130 packages tallow, 200 cases camphor, and 250 cases cassia. For Havre and/or Hamburg: 8 cases human hair, 10 cases bristles, and 10 cases vermilion. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London: 112 cases bristles and 160 cases camphor. For Hamburg: 2 cases China ink, 2 cases paper, 3 cases silks, 5 cases tea, 6 cases Chinaware, 8 cases human hair, 15 cases bristles, 25 cases cassia, 133 packages canes, and 306 rolls matting. For Hamburg and/or London: 157 packages canes. For Hamburg and/or Antwerp: 50 cases bristles. For Antwerp: 40 cases tallow. For Amsterdam: 100 cases preserves.

Per steamer *Prometheus*, sailed on the 17th April. For London: 1,553 bales hemp, 200 bales waste silk, 26 bales canes, 250 cases palm leaf fans, 19 cases Chinaware, &c., 49 cases cigars, 25 cases essential oil, 27 cases black-woodware, 12 cases and 150 cases ginger, 569 bags gum and 18 packages sundries. For London option Manchester: 193 bales waste silk. For London option Hamburg: 157 bales turmeric.

Per steamer *Yarra*, sailed on the 23rd April. For Marseilles: 64 bales raw silk, 1 case silks, 25 cases staranised, 2 cases tea, and 1 case frames. For Lyons: 196 bales raw silk. For Milan: 10 bales raw silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 7th April.—Malwa.—Market is steady. Two years' old at \$920, three years' \$930, four or five years' at \$940, and Putterfore at \$950.

Bengal.—In consequence of high prices in Shanghai our market improved in value and a fair amount of business was transacted. Old Patna at \$947½, New Patna at \$200 Old Benares at \$960, New Benares at \$877½.

Persian.—A small business transferred for fine drug at previous quotation.

Malwa.....	704½ chests
Patna	817 "
Benares	879 "
Persian	2,148½ "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD	NEW	OLD
1900.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Apr. 21	—	935	872½	922	890	930
Apr. 23	—	935	872½	922	891	930
Apr. 24	—	935	872½	922	890	930
Apr. 25	900	945	885	945	900	950
Apr. 26	900	947½	887½	947½	900	950
Apr. 27	900	947½	887½	947½	900	950

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 12th April.—Very dull market prevailed and only small business was put through. Stock: about 3,800 bales.

Bombay.....	25.00 to 26.00 picul.
Kurrachee.....	— to —
Bengal (New), Rangoon,)	26.00 to 27.00 picul.
and Dacca.....)
Shanghai and Japanese ..	27.00 to 28.00
Tungchow and Ningpo.....	27.00 to 28.00
Mauras (Best).....	— to —
Sales: 100 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Edaljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, 27th April.—The business assumed by holders, mentioned in last report, was not of long duration, it shortly after the departure of the Mull's disposition was shown to meet buyers.

The willingness of importers, however, to meet dealers has not led to any increase of business, but, on the contrary, the market has been quieter and barely steady, particularly during the latter portion of the period under review, the offtake being considerably below that of the previous fortnight, and only some 3736 bales have changed hands, at a decline of 50 cents to a dollar per bale. The principal influence at work is the heavy drop in the value of Japanese spinnings, caused by financial difficulties in Japan, and buyers are now paying attention to these to the exclusion of Bombay No. 16s. and 20s. Arrivals during the interval have been small, and it would now appear that receipts are steadily falling away. The question of supplies is beginning to give dealers much concern, as during the late period of depression, stocks in the interior had been allowed to run very low and with the prospects of still smaller receipts later on and restoration of confidence amongst buyers, we expect to see a brisk summer trade next month. Meanwhile the market closes quiet and unsteady.

The most salient feature of the fortnight has been the increased enquiry for favourite tickets of superior No. 12s., between which and No. 10s. the bulk of sales are almost equally divided, No. 20s. showing a considerable reduction in the demand consequent on the comparative cheapness of Japanese spinnings, whilst No. 16s. are almost neglected.

Local Manufacture.—No sale has been reported in the production of the Hongkong Spinning, Weaving, and Dyeing Mills.

Japanese Yarn.—A further general decline of \$2 to \$3 per tal has induced an excessive business in these spinnings, to the neglect of Bombay No. 16s. and 20s. Total sales reported aggregate 2,465 bales, comprising 100 bales No. 16s. and 2,365 bales No. 20s.; say No. 16s. 25 bales Miike at \$104½, 50 bales Kanegafuchi at \$104, and 25 bales Okayama at \$105; No. 30s. 925 bales Settsu at from \$110 to \$108, 475 bales Senu 225 bales Miike, 395 bales Ashai and 345 bales Kanegafuchi at \$107½ to \$106—market closing weak and declining.

Raw Cotton.—Cotton continues to move very slowly owing to the dullness in the market for twist, and recent heavy arrivals from India are going into godowns. The only sale reported in Indian staple is some 76 bales superfine machine-gidged Bengal at from \$27 to \$26, figures which are still above the comparative cost of the manufactured article. The unsold stock is estimated at about 3,000 bales. No business has been reported either in China or other descriptions. Quotations are:—Bengal \$21 to \$27, American \$26 to \$29, Rangoon \$19 to \$25, and China \$27 to \$28.

Exchange on India has continued steady and closes to-day at Rs. 145½ for T/T and Rs. 146½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½.

From 31st March to the 21st instant, the undernoted business in Indian, Japanese and Local Spinings had been effected in Shanghai, viz:—

Indian:—Total sales 10,475 bales comprising 6,089 bales No. 10s. 501 bales No. 12s. 310 bales No. 20s. prices showings an advance of half to one Tael and market closing firm. Estimated unsold stock 60,000 bales.

Japanese:—Total sales 2,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 78 to 74½ for No. 16s. and Tls. 82 to 79 for 20s. rates showing a decline of 3 to 4 Tael and market closing weak. Estimated unsold stock about 16,000 bales.

Local:—Total sales 700 bales on the basis of Tls. 79 for No. 12s. Tls. 80 to 81 for No. 14s. and Tls. 82½ for No. 16s. all packed bales, prices showing an advance of one Tael and market closing steady.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Suigon, Ordinary	\$2.75 to 2.80
Round, Good quality	3.00 to 3.05
Long	3.15 to 3.20
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	3.05 to 3.05
Garden, " No. 1 ..	3.35 to 3.40
White	3.40 to 3.45
Fine Cargo	4.15 to 4.20

COALS.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—No Sales Reported. Market dull. In Japanese small sales at \$7 to \$8, Cardiff a small sale at \$23½. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$26.50 ex ship, offering
Australian	\$12.25 to 12—ex godown, steady

Yubari Lump	\$11.00—ex godown
Miki Lump	8.00 to 8.50 nominal
Moji Lump	6.50 to 8.50 ex ship, steady
Hongay double screened	11.50 to 12 ex godown
Hongay Lump	8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust	5.50 —
Briquettes	11.60 — ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn:—550 bales No. 10 at \$92 to \$99, 650 bales No. 12 at \$95 to \$98, 100 bales No. 16 at \$101 to \$104, 900 bales No. 20 at \$102 to \$110. Japanese Yarn:—50 bales No. 20 at \$91, 200 bales No. 12 at \$92 to \$97, 50 bales No. 16 at \$105, 400 bales No. 20 at \$107 to \$112. Grey Shirtings—500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.80, 200 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.80. White Shirtings—2,000 pieces Blue Dragon at \$5.90. Drills—480 pieces 11 lbs. Peacock Chop at \$4.60.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s	\$ 82.00 to \$110.00
English—Nos. 16 to 21,	114.00 to 120.00
22 to 24,	116.00 to 122.00
28 to 32,	129.00 to 133.00
38 to 42,	147.00 to 154.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.00 to 2.10
7 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25
8.4 lbs.	2.95 to 3.80
9 to 10 lbs.	3.90 to 4.85
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.75 to 2.95
58 to 60 " ..	3.25 to 3.95
64 to 66 " ..	4.25 to 5.00
Fine	5.20 to 8.00
Book-folds	4.55 to 6.45
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ..	0.80 to 1.50
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.85 to 2.00
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.10 to 2.30
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.00 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.55 to 2.90
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) ..	2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.30 to 7.20

FANCY COTTONS—

	per piece
Turkey Red Shirtings—14 to 18 lbs.	1.75 to 7.20
Brocades—Dyed	4.20 to 5.20
Chintzes—Assorted	0.03 to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in	0.26 to 0.65
Velveteens—18 in	0.23 to 0.28
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk ..	0.40 to 2.50

WOOLLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	1.00 to 1.75
German	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.55 to 1.75
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.70 to 10.30
Assorted	6.80 to 10.40
Camlets—Assorted	13.20 to 30.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted)	13.50 to 23.00
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.20 to 16.00

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	6.00 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) ..	6.25 to —
Swedish Bar	8.00 to —
Small Round Rod	7.25 to —
Hoop 4 to 11½ in.	7.50 to —
Wire 15/35	0.75 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Hole Chop ..	10.40 to —
Australian	10.40 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Vivian's, 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
Elliot's, 14/20 oz.	42.00 to —
New Chop, 14/20 oz.	— to —
Composition Nails	65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	30.00 to —
Tin	82.00 to —
per box.	
Tin Plates	7.90 to —
Steel 4 to 4½	7.00 to —
Snappers	— to —
Quicksilver	125.00 to —

enactment, but there was a special procedure pointed out in regard to nuisance in this section and that procedure was that any constable belonging to the Police Force might without warrant take the offender into custody, or, if the offence was committed out of view of the constable, any party injured or annoyed might make a complaint. As he had already said, the Ordinance was concerned with a large number of nuisance affecting the public order and public convenience, and the question arose whether Inspectors of Nuisances had jurisdiction under this Ordinance. It was quite clear that jurisdiction in respect to a large number of these nuisances would be quite outside the scope of their general function. He thought, before it could be found that an Inspector of Nuisances had jurisdiction or power in respect of any matter under the Ordinance, it would be necessary to show that that jurisdiction and power were conferred either by Ordinance or regulation or standing order. There was nothing of that kind before him and he could not hold as the law stood, that an Inspector of Nuisances could select any of the nuisances in the Ordinance and hold that he had power in respect of them and proceed to put that power into force. His Lordship thought that that would not be in accordance with the law. On the whole he thought the conclusion to which he had come was that in this case it was not shown that there was any law to support the allegation in the indictment, that in requesting the removal of this obstruction from the public street the prosecutor was acting as a public servant—that was to say as an Inspector of Nuisances—that he had jurisdiction to make the request and to take the proceedings in respect of this obstruction. He thought therefore that, on the face of the indictment, there was no law to support this material allegation, proof of which would be necessary if a trial took place, and that Mr. Slade's argument was well founded and the indictment disclosed no offence cognisable by the law. He thought, therefore, that the result must be that the indictment may be quashed and the defendant discharged.

The Attorney-General—I don't propose to file any other indictment. I could not alter the facts in any way. Some days ago I may say I felt the difficulty in this case, and I had some doubt. However, I came to the conclusion that it would be better to leave the matter before your Lordship.

His Lordship then discharged Tsoi Tseung from the bar and thanked the gentlemen who had been summoned as jurymen for their attendance.

23rd April.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR, SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A SPECIAL JURY.

THE MURDER OF AN INDIAN SOLDIER.

Gheba Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, was charged with the wilful murder of a Lance-Corporal in the same regiment of the name of Goolam Hassan on the 8th March. The prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. G. L. Tomlin (foreman), G. W. F. Playfair, B. Layton, E. Osborne, W. H. Gaskell, W. Danby and R. M. Gray.

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman), instructed by Messrs. Dennys and Bowley (Crown Solicitors), prosecuted on behalf of the Crown and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the prisoner.

The Attorney-General said the Hongkong Regiment was divided into companies and each company was divided into sections. Each company had a block of buildings to itself at Kowloon, and each block contained four large rooms—two below and two above. The room occupied by No. 4 section of B company—the section to which the prisoner and the murdered man belonged—seemed to have been about 91 feet wide, and verandahs ran along the long sides of the room. The long sides were respectively north and south, the ends being respectively east and west. The beds were arranged along the long sides, there being 13 on one side and 12 on the other and there

was a passage between the rows. The walls were pierced by windows, and in about the middle of each side there was a door which opened out from the room itself on to the verandah, there being a north verandah and a south verandah. As regarded the time of the occurrence, it appeared to have taken place between half-past one and two o'clock, which was generally a slack time of day. Between half-past one and two o'clock on the afternoon of the 8th March, while in his room, the deceased seemed to have received some blows on his head. These blows must have been heavy and violent blows caused by some heavy instrument, and he thought the jury would be of opinion that the blows were inflicted by an instrument which was not sharp. The man died at about half-past five the same afternoon in Hospital, and from the time he received the blows until the time of his death he seemed to have been unconscious. The medical evidence would show that although the outer skin was not burst, yet the skull was fractured across from one temple to another, and small fragments of bone were found, and there was an effusion of blood on the brain. Death ensued from coma at 5.30 p.m. on the 8th March. When the jury heard the evidence he thought they would be of opinion that death was caused by the blows received on the skull about the time he had mentioned on the 8th March. When they had heard the evidence he thought they would be of opinion that the hand which inflicted these blows was the hand of the prisoner. Of course it would be necessary for the jury to consider very carefully all the circumstances and the evidence, in order that they might arrive at a sound conclusion as to the mode in which and the circumstances under which the blows were inflicted. It might be that the evidence would be conflicting on that point. He should be able to call before them two witnesses, who would say that they personally saw the blows inflicted. The first man he should call was Alla Ditta Khan, a private in B Company and belonging to No. 4 section. He stated that the deceased was asleep on his bed, and that the prisoner took up a broom from the fire-place and struck the deceased twice on the head with it. He said the deceased did not move, but became insensible, and that he was shortly afterwards carried to the Hospital, where he died at 5.30 p.m. the same day. The other witness he should call was Jewan Khan, another private in the same company. He said that at one o'clock on the 8th March he went to get the rations for the section to which he belonged. He returned at about 1.40, and as he was passing the window next to the bed of the deceased—passing along the verandah—he saw the prisoner hit deceased over the head with a broom and then run away. The prisoner was subsequently arrested and taken to the Central Police Station.

The evidence for the prosecution was then proceeded with.

24th April.

The hearing of the charge against Gheba Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, of murdering a Lance-Corporal in the same regiment named Goolam Hassan, was resumed.

The case for the prosecution having been concluded, Mr. Slade opened for the defence. He said the facts as given by the witnesses for the prosecution pointed to the fact that prisoner had his master's sword, instead of using which he picked up a broom, a similar weapon to that which Goolam Hassan was armed with. The prosecution had shown that deceased was a bigger and stronger man than prisoner and he only defended himself. He would call evidence to show that prisoner had permission from Captain Rowcroft to take his sword into barracks to clean it, and he would call Havildar Gama, one of the men accused of urging prisoner to commit murder, and would show that Havildar Gama was in his own room. Sahib Deen would be proved to have been out of the room at the time of the transaction. Fuzel Khan, who was supposed to have been sleeping on his bed, would be called and relate the account of the fray as he reported it to Allah Deen. Private Gama was asleep in the room. All these witnesses would tell different stories bearing on the case, but they would all state one important fact, and that was that Allah

Ditta was asleep on his bed and only half heard and did not see the blows struck.

The evidence for the defence was then called.

25th April.

The hearing of the charge against Gheba Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, of murdering a Lance-Corporal in the same regiment of the name of Goolam Hassan was resumed.

The evidence for the defence was continued.

Inspector Macdonald, on being recalled, said he first took the statement of Alla Ditta in writing between 9 and 11 p.m. on the 8th March at the Police Station at Yaumatei. Jewan Khan was present and gave his statement immediately afterwards. They were not told they would be called as witnesses.

Fazil Khan, a private who occupied the same room as the prisoner and the deceased, said he was sleeping on his bed on the 8th March when he was awakened at 1.55 p.m. by the sound of somebody stamping on the floor. He heard the prisoner, who was on the verandah, call out "Goolam Hassan, you are troubling me." He also called Goolam Hassan a bad name and added, "I will go to the Subadar and report you." Goolam Hassan was laid down on his bed at the time, and the other men in the room were asleep. Sahib Din went to the door to see who was abusing Goolam Hassan. He then went to the deceased's bed, and spoke to him, but found that the man was unconscious. The witness roused Allah Ditta, telling him a murder had been committed.

Replying to the Attorney-General, the witness said he was quite sure Allah Ditta was asleep. He did not go round, but the men were all covered up, with their blankets over their heads. The witness could not explain prisoner's statement that Allah Ditta came up with a stick and interfered with him and Goolam Hassan, unless Allah Ditta struck the blow and went and laid down again immediately afterwards.

His Lordship said that after the adjournment the previous day two of the jurors spoke to him outside and said they would like to see the section room. He told them they had better not go informally by themselves, but that he would take the opinion of the jury as to whether they wished to go or not. If the jury wished to go he had arranged for a launch to take them at once. It was for the jury to decide whether they would go or not.

The jury consulted together, and the Foreman announced that two wished to go and five did not.

His Lordship—Well, gentlemen, I suppose you will go by the majority?

Mr. Slade said it was now his duty to sum up to the jury as clearly and as shortly as may be what he conceived to be the effect of the evidence which they had heard. Before dealing with the evidence it would be convenient to draw attention to what the Attorney-General mentioned to them in opening the case, namely, the various verdicts which it was within their power to bring in on this indictment. The indictment charged the prisoner with murder. On that indictment it was open for them to bring in a verdict of murder, or they might bring in a verdict of manslaughter—that was to say that he killed the man but not with malice aforethought, but killed him without lawful excuse; that it was an unintentional killing. Then they could bring in a verdict of not guilty, and a verdict of not guilty did not necessarily mean that they believed the man to be innocent, but it meant that the prosecution had failed to bring home satisfactorily to their minds that the man was guilty either of murder or manslaughter. Then they might bring in what was practically a fourth verdict. That was to say, they might add a rider to their verdict, supposing they found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter, and say that it was under circumstances of the greatest provocation, or that they strongly recommended him to mercy, or whatever they thought would meet the justice of the case. What was the story told on behalf of the crown? The story of the witnesses for the crown was that the prisoner went deliberately up to a sleeping man and killed him. If the jury believed that it would be for them to bring in a verdict of murder. But before they accepted a story of that kind it was well to enquire into its reasonableness and consider the

probabilities of the case. They had had the advantage of hearing a number of witnesses who told a very different story and a story which he thought, when considered would be found more probable. And they had also the statement of the prisoner himself as to how the killing occurred. As the Attorney-General had said, one point in this case about which there was no dispute was that it was the prisoner who caused the death of the deceased man by striking him on the head, but what they had to consider was how and under what circumstances the prisoner struck the blows. The story of the prosecution was that the prisoner in the presence of five men, four of them alleged to be his friends and one—Allah Ditta—who was clearly not his friend, inflicted murderous blows on a sleeping man. Looking at that by itself it was a most extraordinary tale. It was hardly conceivable that a man in his senses would go and hammer another man on the head in the presence of five people, all of whom were awake and watching him; no matter if the four men did advise him to go and strike the man. Had he wished to take vengeance on this man he would take an opportunity when there was no unfriendly eye watching him. Let them compare the story told by the prosecution with the story which they could gather from the tale told by the prisoner himself and the story as brought out by the witnesses for the defence. It appeared from that story that the deceased man made indecent proposals to the prisoner—at a time when there were five or six men in the room, it was true, but when all those five or six men were on their beds covered up. That was just such a moment that a man filled with lust such as the deceased seemed to have been would have selected to have made the proposal which he was alleged to have made. There was nobody there to hear it or capable of hearing it except the prisoner, to whom he addressed the proposals. The story as told by the defence was that the prisoner rejected those proposals. It appeared that more or less hard words passed between the prisoner and the deceased man; that the deceased man picked up a broom which was lying handy to assault the prisoner; that the prisoner thereupon seized another broom and repelled the assault and hit the deceased over the head with such force and violence that the man subsequently died. Nobody saw it; nobody was awake to see it. Nobody knew except the prisoner, according to the story of the defence, exactly what passed between these two men.

The Attorney-General summed up for the prosecution.

His Lordship, in his address to the jury, said he wished to make some observations with regard to Captain Rowcroft. He did so with some regret, but he thought it his duty to do so. Captain Rowcroft was a wing commander in the regiment in which this No. 4 company and No. 4 section were. It seemed to him that when a private in that section was found to have been killed and was alleged to have been killed by another private in that section the duty of the officers of the regiment was very clear. They had a double duty. They had a duty to the deceased man; they had a duty to the living man; and it appeared to him that that double duty would be best discharged by a fair and impartial line of conduct in the matter—by giving all the assistance to the officers of justice possible by way of making investigation into the murder, by seeing that the murderer was punished if the crime was fairly brought home, and, on the other hand, taking care that the man charged with murder had every facility for defence and had a fair and full trial. It appeared to him quite clear that the duty of the officers of the regiment was not to throw their weight or influence one way or another. It seemed to him that to do so was indiscreet, and more than indiscreet—dangerous. Let them bear in mind that in making this observation he did not intend in any way to reflect on the integrity or truthfulness of Captain Rowcroft. In reply to the Attorney-General, Captain Rowcroft said he had taken an interest in the defence, that he was there on behalf of the prisoner to watch the case, that he believed Allah Ditta was lying; that he had given no information to the police about the case because it was not his duty to do so. He confessed that he was very sorry when Captain Rowcroft made

this statement. Supposing this man was acquitted and supposing the non-commissioned officers and men of the regiment were very clear in their own minds that the prisoner caused the death of the deceased man unlawfully. The inference drawn by the non-commissioned officers and men would be that by throwing his weight in the scale in favour of the prisoner Captain Rowcroft saved the prisoner from the punishment of his crime. Could there be a worse thing for the good order and good discipline of the regiment? Then supposing Captain Rowcroft had conceived a very strong idea that the prisoner was guilty, and had thrown his weight against the prisoner, in that case also the feeling would be unsatisfactory. He did hope that in cases of this kind, and especially in an Asiatic regiment, officers would be very careful not to take too active a part on one side or the other.

The jury retired to consider their verdict at four o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. Slade said that now the jury had left the court perhaps his Lordship would allow him to state on behalf of Captain Rowcroft that his Lordship's observations were made under a misapprehension of the part Captain Rowcroft had taken. He had unfortunately been misunderstood. The part he had taken in this matter was not such as his Lordship seemed to think.

His Lordship—I have read Captain Rowcroft's evidence, and I made those observations on that evidence.

Mr. Slade—But unfortunately they entirely misrepresent the position he has taken.

His Lordship—Then he has mis-stated his position.

Mr. Slade—His sole endeavour was to endeavour to ascertain the truth.

His Lordship—I am quite aware that he said that towards the conclusion of his evidence. At the same time I cannot help regretting very much the action he has taken in this matter.

Mr. Slade was about to pursue the matter further, but his Lordship declined to hear any more.

The jury returned after an absence of ten minutes and unanimously found the prisoner not guilty of the capital charge, but guilty of manslaughter.

His Lordship, addressing the prisoner, said—Gheba Khan, the jury have taken a merciful view of your case, and I am glad they have seen their way to do so. At the same time I am bound to say that I regard it as a very bad case of manslaughter. Though you may have had some provocation, and though you may have acted in some hot blood, yet you acted very wickedly. I think you must undergo a long sentence by way of showing that human life is precious and that people must be prevented from taking it recklessly. The sentence upon you is that you be imprisoned for 18 years with hard labour.

April 24th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH.

APPLICATION FOR AN EJECTMENT ORDER.

Tam Ho, a contractor residing at 14, Hollywood Road, was the plaintiff and Fr. Blunck was the defendant. The plaintiff asked that an ejectment order be made as against the defendant in respect of the premises No. 9, Beaconsfield Arcade.

Mr. Hays appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Sharp (instructed by Mr. Ewens) for the defendant.

Mr. Hays said his client leased 14 houses in Beaconsfield Arcade from Mr. Bellios. On the 7th July last year two leases were entered into between his client and the defendant. One was for the whole of No. 2 and the ground floor of No. 14 in Beaconsfield Arcade, and the tenancy was for one year. The defendant went into possession on the 17th July, but it was agreed that no rent should be paid until the first of August. On the 5th August the defendant went to the plaintiff and complained that the ground floor of No. 14 was too damp for him to carry on his business as a lap merchant and suggested that he should find him another place. It was accordingly arranged that the defendant should have No. 9,

verbal agreement being entered into the defendant agreed to hand over the lease for No. 14, but he had neglected to do so. As the defendant declined to agree to pay \$60 a month for No. 9 the plaintiff said he would let him hire the house for \$50 a month on a monthly tenancy. Mr. Blunck went into No. 9 on the first of September—it was not possible for him to go in before. Since then, instead of paying \$50 a month rent the defendant had only paid \$45. Rather than make any fuss over the \$5 his client had accepted a smaller rent than that agreed upon. On the 30th January last the plaintiff gave the defendant proper legal notice to quit—that was a month's notice—but the defendant had disregarded the notice and still remained on the premises.

The plaintiff gave evidence in corroboration of this statement. He added that after he had given the defendant notice to quit, the defendant sent him a letter in which he said, "If you bother me any more with your rubbish I will take you before the Magistrate. You must remember that you are not playing with a Chinaman." He was very angry with this letter and did not answer it, but instructed his solicitors to take action to eject the defendant.

For the defence it was contended that the tenancy for No. 9 was a yearly tenancy, as was the case with Nos. 2 and 14, and the lease for No. 14 was produced, showing that No. 14 had been crossed out and 9 inserted in its place.

Judgment was given for the defendant with costs.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 16th inst. afternoon. The Hon. R. D. Ormsby presided and there were also present Lieut. Col. Ryan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark, Dr. Hartigan, Mr. J. McKie, Dr. Lawson, Mr. J. F. Badeley, Mr. Fung Wah Chuen, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

PLAGUE AND OVERCROWDING.

It had been arranged that the adjourned discussion on plague and overcrowding should be resumed.

Mr. OSBORN said—The Public Health Ordinance of 1894, amongst many other wise provisions, decrees that every person in this colony shall be allotted in his dwelling a minimum surface area of 30 square feet and a minimum breathing space of 400 cubic feet. So that a cubicle or room measuring 6 feet long by 5 ft. wide and 13 ft. 6 in. high will legally accommodate one human being. The lawmakers who decided this limit cannot be accused of extravagant ideas on the subject of sanitation and as a matter of fact it is below what eminent authorities declare to be necessary for good health. This law has been in existence for six years and during that period has remained practically a dead letter, for, instead of 30 square feet of surface and 400 cubic feet of air, the majority of the poorer classes in Hongkong have nothing approaching that allowance, which means in other words that a large proportion of the dwellings are crowded with many more persons than is good for them to contain. No wonder then that plague and kindred diseases spread so rapidly, and the mortality of this city is so great, for is it reasonable to suppose that people condemned through poverty to live in fetid dens, surrounded by a polluted atmosphere, can hope to battle successfully against disease? The reason of the law having been allowed to remain inoperative so long is that the Sanitary Board has not had available men to enforce it, but this is now partially remedied by the Government having sanctioned the appointment of additional Inspectors. We are therefore in a position to commence an attack upon overcrowded tenements, and I think that if the matter be taken up intelligently and vigorously we may in the next few years bring about some improvement. The enforcement of the law will probably give annoyance to Chinese and may possibly bring upon our heads the wrath of the landlords, but our path lies very straight before us and we must be prepared to move steadily forward in the direction of reform, deterred neither by the objections of the one nor the importunities of the other. But while thus pursuing our course it behooves us to take every possible precaution against causing unnecessary irritation or

hardship to the tenants, whom our action will mostly affect, and an important point to consider is that sufficient vacant tenements are available to receive the surplus numbers whom the enforcement of the Law will dislodge and I think the best plan will be to take one district at a time and apply the law in that district only until the people living there have learnt to understand and obey it. With this end in view I beg to propose:—"That the Board ascertain in what district there are largest number of unoccupied tenements and proceed to enforce the laws against overcrowding in such district only."

Dr. HARTIGAN seconded, and after a little discussion the motion was carried.

The two Chinese members of the Board voted against; and it was decided to suspend the standing orders in order to give them the opportunity of making any suggestions.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK thought the first thing to do was to find a place for the Chinese to go to, and suggested that the Government should sell the land at Taipingshan at a reasonable price, so that Chinese houses should be erected thereon.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUEN thought it would be better if the Government erected houses themselves and let them at cheap rates.

Mr. OSBORNE said they had asked the Government to build at Taipingshan and they had refused to do so.

THE PROPOSED TRUST CORPORATION.

A letter was submitted from the Acting Colonial Secretary to the effect that, while His Excellency fully appreciates the excellent work being done by the Sanitary Board and the anxious desire of that body for improved sanitation, he is not prepared to recommend the creation of a Trust to the Secretary of State, who has so lately decided against the proposal to grant municipal powers in the colony.

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"The Trust scheme differed very materially from a municipal scheme."

Dr. Lowson minuted:—"What's to be done now?"

Mr. OSBORNE said—The reply we have received from Government on the subject of the proposed Trust may be regarded as a refusal to deal with the matter, on the grounds that it involves questions of Municipality which the Home Authorities will under no circumstances permit. But the Government's reply does not reject the principles of the Trust and may therefore be looked upon as an encouragement to the Sanitary Board to persevere in its crusade against overcrowding. Under these circumstances and considering the importance of the subject not only to Chinese but to every European in the place and especially those of limited means and who form an increasing section of the community, I shall propose that the matter be referred again to the Government in a different form in the hope that by eliminating the Municipal bogey we may attain our ends. What we want or rather I should say what the proposed Trust aimed at is to do in Hongkong what is being done in cities, notably London, Paris and Bombay, in other parts of the world, that is to pull down, to abolish the slums, to erase the remnants of early 19th Century insanitation and to rebuild and remodel such areas on the lines which the mistakes of the past and the improved knowledge of to-day declare to be essential to a healthy existence. And in the course of accomplishing these ends the Trust had in view the reclaiming and laying out of areas suitable for Chinese, the opening up of sites along the San Kiwan road and the building there and in other localities of dwellings for those who are now compelled to live amidst the filth, noise and foul air of the Chinese portions of the town. These were the objects the Trust had in view and I think they must commend themselves to every right-minded man as being worthy of our making making another attempt to attain. If there be one city which more than others should be the first to abolish its insanitary areas it is the City of Victoria for in this City modern plague was nursed and sent forth to claim its victims throughout the world and we who have had brought home to us the evils resulting from the mistakes of our predecessors, we who witness the horrors of this epidemic, should have the merit of being the first to remove the cause of the terrible disease which has stalked the otherwise fair name of Hongkong and I beg

to move:—"That the Government be asked to set aside annually a percentage of the assessed taxes and premia on land sales for the purpose of improving the sanitation of Hongkong in such manner as the Sanitary Board with the approval of the Government may direct."

Lieut. Col. RYAN, in seconding, said it was simply appalling that this colony had, through neglect of sanitary precautions, been the cause of plague becoming a wide-spread misery to the human race and a downright menace to the permanence of our empire.

Dr. HARTIGAN supported, observing that his impression was that this municipal bogey was only an excuse for shelving the matter.

THE PRICE OF FOOD IN THE COLONY.

The following letter, dated April 17th, from the Acting Colonial Secretary was submitted:—

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst. forwarding copy of a resolution of the Sanitary Board passed at a meeting held on the 29th ult. together with copy of an extract from the report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for the year 1899, on the subject of the increased price of food in the colony, and asking what steps the Government proposed to take in the matter. In reply I am to inform you that enquiries had already been instituted into this question, with the result that it has been decided to license suitable premises approved by the Sanitary Board outside the markets for the sale of fresh meat and fish, and that a notification has been issued in the Gazette of the 4th inst. to that effect.

"It is hoped by this means to relieve the demand for such accommodation in the markets, which among other evils leads to a system of sub-letting that is at the same time being made the subject of enquiry.

"The question of additional market accommodation is also engaging the attention of Government.

"The Board are doubtless aware that His Excellency the Officer Adminstrating the Government has also promised in the Legislative Council to appoint a Committee of Enquiry into the rise in the price of food, and steps are being taken to appoint such committee."

Dr. Clark minuted:—"I think this might be referred to the C. V. S. for report before it is discussed by the Board. The question of inspection of the food is involved, and this comes within the province of the C. V. S."

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby minuted:—"I see no necessity to do more than acknowledge the receipt of the letter. The Government are taking action in the matter, and no doubt the C. V. S. will be called on to give evidence before the Committee."

It was decided to acknowledge the receipt of the letter.

A NUISANCE.

A letter was submitted from the Acting Colonial Secretary to the effect that he was directed to say that there were at present no funds available for the removal of the urinal at the west side of the Cricket Ground, but that it was contemplated to remove it when the Government works in the immediate vicinity were being carried out.

Mr. OSBORNE said that, considering that the expense was quite paltry, he did not think the Government were justified in putting that forward as an excuse for refusing the Sanitary Board's request.

Dr. HARTIGAN considered that the Sanitary Board had had a decided snub in this matter. He proposed that the Government be asked to reconsider their decision with regard to this matter.

Mr. MCKIE seconded, and the motion was carried, five voting for it and five abstaining from voting.

CHINESE CEMETERIES.

Dr. Lowson, Hartigan and Clark and the two Chinese members consented to act as a committee to confer with the Acting Registrar General in connection with Chinese cemeteries.

THE DRAINAGE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The report of the Drainage Sub-Committee relative to the proposed amendment of the Public Health Ordinance was submitted, and on the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Mr. MCKIE, it was decided that a by-law be com-

mended by the sub-committee should be forwarded to the Government for their approval.

THE IMPORTATION OF CATTLE AND SWINE.

Mr. Ladds reported that, owing to the large increase in the number of sheep and swine imported into the colony during the past two years—18,339 more in 1899 than in 1897—it is necessary that provision be made in next year's estimates to provide more accommodation for the housing of these animals at the Kennedy town depot. One shed, at least, similar in dimensions and fittings to the first sheds which were built for this purpose, should be erected early next year, and a space reserved for a further one which would be required at no very distant date.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by Mr. MCKIE, it was decided to forward the report to the Government with the recommendation that they should adopt the same.

CANCELLING A CONTRACT.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Lieut. Col. RYAN, it was decided to recommend the Government to cancel the contract of Fong Shi, scavenging contractor of Aberdeen and Apichan, on the ground that he was not fulfilling the contract, having disappeared from the colony.

THE BACK-YARD QUESTION.

An application was submitted from Messrs Leigh and Orange, architects, relative to back-yards, on behalf of the Land Investment and Agency Company. Permission was asked to erect certain houses without backyards, it being pointed out that all the houses would be surrounded by wide streets, and the houses without back-yards were far better lighted and ventilated than the middle houses having back-yards.

It was pointed out that the law gave the Board no option in the matter, and on the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by Lieut. Col. RYAN, it was decided that a reply to this effect be returned.

THE ANALYSIS OF MILK.

The result of the analysis of a sample of milk taken from 25, Stanley-street was submitted. The Acting Government Analyst (Mr. T. J. Wild) added:—"I am of opinion from the above results that this is a sample of genuine milk."

Dr. Hartigan minuted:—"It would be well to give the proportion of sugar, as if sugar be artificially added it raises the specific gravity of the milk, and this practice is supposed to be carried out by dairies here."

Dr. Lowson minuted:—"Long job estimating amount of sugar; will be done occasionally."

LIMEWASHING.

The Limewashing Return for the fortnight was submitted. It said:—"The period for limewashing the Central District is within a week of expiring and only one-third of the houses have been done. The Inspector reports that he is keeping his work as near to date as possible, so that unless the limewashing is greatly accelerated he will be able, if necessary, to institute proceedings for non-compliance within one week from end of April."

On the motion Dr. CLARK the following resolution was carried:—"That the Sanitary Board hereby depute, in accordance with sections 2 and 3 of Ordinance No. 6 of 1900, Inspector Patrick O'Donnell to institute summary proceedings before a Magistrate against any person contravening the bye-law made under sub-section 4 of section 13 of Ordinance 24 of 1887 for the cleansing and limewashing of premises, when so directed in writing by the Medical Officer of Health."

MACAO MORTALITY RETURNS.

The deaths in Macao for the week ended April 1st numbered 63, including nine from plague. The deaths for the following week numbered 72, including 22 from plague.

THE HEALTH OF HONGKONG.

The death-rate for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended 31st March was 21.6, against 27.3 for the previous week and 18.8 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the following week was 25.4, against 23.8 for corresponding week last year. The death-rate for the week ended April 1st was 19.6, against 17 for the same week last year.

Dr. CLARK said that during the past fortnight 3,077 rats had been destroyed, making a total of 16,783. He reported to suggest that there was no statement in the papers of the rats and as at the previous meeting it was decided to de-

clare No. 2 health district infected with plague he now proposed that No. 1 health district be declared infected. At the previous meeting a sub-committee, consisting of Dr. Lowson and himself, was appointed to make arrangements with regard to house visitation in No. 2 district. They asked for six constables, and these constables commenced work on the 20th inst. They had discovered seven cases of plague during the past week, and he proposed that if the Board declared No. 1 health district infected the same constables visit No. 1 district as well as No. 2.

Dr. Lowson seconded, and the motion was carried.

"This was all the business."

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3.15 p.m. on Wednesday, the 18th April, 1900.—Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), A. Haupt, Hon. J. J. Keswick, N. A. Siebs, Herbert Smith, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous monthly meeting (held 12th March) were read and confirmed.

RESIGNATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

The Secretary reported that Messrs. H. Ritchie and A. McConachie resigned their seats on the 28th and 29th March respectively and Hon. T. H. Whitehead on the 13th April, and that Sir Thomas Jackson had gone home on six months' leave.

The imminence of the annual meeting rendered unnecessary any consideration of these vacancies on the committee.

REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES.

Read letter from Tientsin Chamber of Commerce, dated 23rd February, acknowledging receipt of Chamber's circular letters of 10th August and 6th October, and enclosing copy of a resolution passed at their last committee meeting on the subject of cable rates.

Also read letters from Manager in London and the Manager in China of the E. E. A. & Co. Telegraph Co., transmitting copy of the letter addressed by the Eastern Telegraph Co., Ltd., to the General Post Office, setting out the basis on which the Associated Companies are prepared to negotiate with the British Government for a general reduction of tariffs to all British Colonies and Dependencies.

A letter of acknowledgment and thanks for the latter had been addressed to Mr. Von der Pfordten by the acting Secretary.

The Chairman said he thought there was nothing further to be done in the matter for the present; it would come up at the Congress of Chambers.

TARIFF REVISION IN CHINA.

Read letter from H.E. Sir Claude Macdonald, B.M.'s Minister in China, in reply to the Chamber's letter of 22nd February, stating that there was no truth in the rumour that negotiations with the Chinese Government in reference to a revision of the Tariff were being pushed on rapidly.

This letter had, the Secretary reported, already been published in the local Press for general information.

PIRACIES ON THE WEST RIVER.

In connection with the above subject, a letter had been received from the Acting Colonial Secretary, enclosing extract from a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Seymour suggesting that merchant vessels should take only one route from Samshui to sea, along which they would have the protection of gunboats, and asking the Chamber's opinion on the route named.

After some discussion, in which it was stated that the master of the steamers plying on the river were being consulted, it was decided to reply to the effect that so soon as the opinions of those concerned had been obtained an answer would be sent to the enquiry.

JAPANESE "SAFETY MATCHES."

Read letter from the Government, received on the 6th April, transmitting a suggestion by the Acting Harbour Master that, in view of

the fact that two fires had occurred on board vessels in port in consequence of spontaneous combustion of so-called Japanese "safety matches" among the cargo, these matches should, when the New Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance comes into force, be classed, under its provisions, as dangerous goods.

Considerable discussion ensued on this proposal, which it was thought was calculated, if carried into effect, to divert an important trade from the port, and it was decided to write to the Government deprecating immediate action in the direction indicated. It was also resolved to bring the matter to the attention of the Chambers of Commerce at Kobe and Yokohama, with a view to get them to urge upon the manufacturers the desirability of making the matches genuine "safety matches."

THE CANADIAN MAIL CONTRACT.

A letter, dated 17th April, from the acting agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. Royal Mail S. S. Line, was read, which announced that the contract for the carriage of the mails from Vancouver to Hongkong will expire in May, 1901, and asked the Chamber to support the Company's application for a renewal thereof.

The subject was discussed at some length, and eventually the following resolution was proposed by the CHAIRMAN:—

"That in the opinion of this chamber it is desirable that the contract between Her Majesty's Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the carriage of mails from Hongkong via the Pacific and Vancouver, which will expire in May, 1901, should be renewed, if possible with an accelerated and fortnightly service."

Hon. J. J. Keswick seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

POSTAL COMPLAINT FROM MANILA.

Read letter from the Manila Chamber of Commerce complaining of the late receipt at that port of European mails from Hongkong, and pointing out that this arose from injudicious selection of steamers proceeding via Amoy.

THE VACANT SEAT ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Read letter from H.E. the Acting Governor, dated 17th April, and received that morning, stating that Mr. Whitehead had been granted nine months' leave of absence and requesting the Chamber to submit the name of some gentleman for appointment to the vacancy.

It was decided to include this nomination at the annual general meeting of members shortly to be held.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

This was fixed for Monday, the 30th April, at 3 o'clock p.m.

THE DRAFT REPORT

Was then considered, paragraph by paragraph, and passed.

The following is the correspondence which was read at the meeting:—

REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES.

The Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Co., Limited,
Winchester House, 50, Old Broad Street,
London, E.C.

9th March, 1900.

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 19th January last, I have to inform you that on receipt of a telegram from our Manager at Hongkong, giving the purport of your letter under acknowledgement, we requested Her Majesty's Government to be good enough to inform us if they had any objection to our furnishing the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce with a copy of our communication to the Government embodying the proposal for a general reduction of tariffs.

On receipt of a reply from Her Majesty's Government intimating that they had no objection to this being done, we at once posted a copy to our Manager in China with a request that he would forward it to you.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. E. HESSE,

Manager.

R. CHATTESTON WILCOX, Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

The Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Co., Limited.

Hongkong, 16th March, 1900.

Dear Sir,

For the information of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce I have now the pleasure of enclosing a copy of the letter referred to in my communication to you of 13th February last.

When the above copy of the letter was posted to me from London (6th ultimo) no reply had been received by the Companies from the Secretary of the General Post Office.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. VON DER PFORDTEN.

Manager in China.

R. C. WILCOX, Esq.,

Secretary,

Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

The Eastern Telegraph Co., Limited.

Winchester House, E.C.

2nd August, 1899.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my interview with you of the 21st ultimo, and confirm the proposals I then made, that the Associated Companies are prepared to negotiate with the British Government for a general reduction of tariffs to all British Colonies and Dependencies served by their lines.

I would suggest that the basis of these negotiations should be:—

1st—A fixed minimum of revenue for each class of traffic.

2nd—A gradual reduction of tariffs when such revenue averages over the fixed minimum for 3 years.

3rd—When the traffic increases so as to necessitate the laying of extra cables, the minimum revenue to be increased sufficiently to pay for the service of the extra capital, maintenance and working of the required new cables.

4th—All negotiations with Foreign Administrations for reduction of tariff to be undertaken by the British Government, the companies giving all the assistance in their power.

An arrangement of this character would give the public the benefit of reductions whenever any special traffic showed development, and would enable the Government to assist in all alterations of tariffs. The arrangement is on the same lines as that offered to South Africa and Australia, and practically accepted by the former.

The companies would, however, ask that they should be given a guarantee that they should have landing rights through all British Possessions for any additional cables that they might consider necessary for carrying traffic; that they should be able to rent subterranean lines in Great Britain at the same prices per mile as they at present pay for overhead wires, and that in all parts of the British Empire, they should be placed on terms of equality with any other Telegraph Administration that might be competing against them.

I would suggest that the approaching Telegraph Conference would be a favourable opportunity of completing any negotiations that might be necessary with Foreign Administrations, so as to bring any reductions of tariffs into operation as soon as possible.

I should be pleased to have an interview with you to discuss any point upon which you might wish further information. Perhaps some time after the holidays might be arranged, so as to give time for the proposed arrangements to be carefully considered.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. DENISON PENDER,

Vice-Chairman.

The Secretary,
General Post Office, London.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 19th March, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your esteemed favour of 18th inst. and beg to thank you, on behalf of the Committee for the copy of Mr. J. Denison Pender's letter addressed to the Secretary, General Post Office, London, to which I have referred.

I have further to thank you for the information contained in above favour that no

reply to Mr. Denison-Pender's letter had been received from the Post Office Authorities.

I remain, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. HENDERSON,

Acting Secretary.

F. VON DER PEORDTEN, Esq.,

Manager in China,

E. E. A. & C. TELEGRAPH CO.

PIRACIES ON THE WEST RIVER.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Hongkong, April 5th, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you for the information of the Chamber the enclosed extract from Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Seymour, suggesting that with a view to the better prevention of piracies, merchant vessels should use one route only between Samshui and the sea, which would be specially protected by gunboats, and proposing one such route. I have to request information as to whether the Chamber of Commerce approves of this route or can suggest a better one.

I am to request you to send me a reply at the earliest possible moment, as it is desired to take immediate action on the Vice-Admiral's proposal.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

F. H. MAY

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The ACTING SECRETARY,

Chamber of Commerce.

Extract from Vice-Admiral E. H. Seymour's letter, dated 3rd April, 1900:—

"For the prevention of such things in future one plan which seems to me advisable is to make it publicly known that efforts will be made to protect one route only between Samshui and the sea. Which this route should be may be difficult to decide, but I should suggest the West River by Campbell Island, Kum-chuk, Chan-lui Island, and the Broadway, to Macao, as the easiest to patrol and protect, but there may be good reason to prefer another one."

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th April.

Sir,

I beg to own receipt of your letter (No. 568) dated 5th inst., enclosing extract from a despatch from Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Seymour suggesting that with a view to the better prevention of piracies, merchant vessels should use one route only between Samshui and the sea, which would be specially protected by gunboats, and proposing such route.

I am instructed to say that the proposal is receiving careful attention, but time is required to obtain full information as to the most desirable route. A reply will, however, be forwarded as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,

Secretary.

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

JAPANESE "SAFETY MATCHES."

Colonial Secretary's Office,

5th April, 1900.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you for the consideration of the Chamber of Commerce the enclosed copy of a letter from the Acting Harbour Master on the subject of the desirability of declaring under section 15 of the New Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance, when it comes into force, safety matches of Japanese manufacture to be dangerous goods.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

F. H. MAY,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The SECRETARY,

Chamber of Commerce.

Harbour Department,

Hongkong, 3rd April, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to make the following recommendation:—There having been, during the last six months, two cases of fire on board

steamers in this port, due to part of the general cargo consisting of Japanese (so-called) safety matches, I submit the advisability of declaring such matches to be "dangerous goods" under section 12 of Ordinance 26 of 1891 and section 15 of the Merchant Shipping Consolidation Ordinance 1899.

The second case occurred this morning, apparently through spontaneous combustion. It was fortunately discovered while the Acting Senior Boarding Officer was inspecting emigrants on board; otherwise, had the vessel (the steamship *Chunshan*) got to sea before discovery of the fire, a panic among the 800 emigrants would have been inevitable, and great loss of life and property have probably ensued.

I am aware that there is much to be said on both sides of the question, but these matches appear to be distinctly dangerous, and hence some restriction becomes necessary.

The trade in these matches forms so infinitesimal a portion of the total trade of the port, that I imagine it will scarcely be a hardship to the shippers to restrict the carriage of them to such ships as do not carry more than 20 passengers, as provided for in the 1899 Ordinance, section 15, sub-section 5.

I am, &c.,

B. TAYLOR,

Acting Harbour Master.

The Hon. the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 20th April.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter (No. 572) of the 5th inst., transmitting for the consideration of this Chamber a suggestion by the Acting Harbour Master on the question of the desirability of declaring under Section 15 of the new Merchant Shipping Ordinance, when it comes into force, safety matches of Japanese manufacture to be dangerous goods.

In reply, I am directed to say the Committee deprecate action in this matter at present, considering that the proposal is based on the occurrence of only two cases of combustion and those of comparatively recent date, whereas the proposal suggested would certainly divert an important trade from its accustomed channel. This Chamber in the meantime is bringing the matter to the attention of the Chambers of Commerce of Kobe and Yokohama, suggesting to them to urge upon those concerned the necessity of observing more care in the manufacture of these safety matches.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,

Secretary.

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st April, 1900.

Sir,

In consequence of two recent cases of fire on board steamers in this port, due to part of the general cargo, consisting of Japanese so-called safety matches, a suggestion has been made to the Colonial Government which has been submitted to this Chamber, viz., that, under the provisions of the new Shipping Ordinance, these matches should be declared dangerous goods.

This Chamber has, in reply, deprecated immediate action in this direction as it would tend to obstruct trade and because such disasters have not been frequent in the past. The Committee, however, wish to express the opinion that Japanese manufacturers would further their own interests, and obviate interference here by paying greater attention to the absolute safety of their matches from spontaneous ignition.

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,

Secretary.

The SECRETARY,

Hiego and Osaka General Chamber of Commerce.

[Identical letters were sent to Kobe Native and Yokohama Foreign and Native Chambers of Commerce.]

THE CANADIAN MAIL CONTRACT.
Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Royal Mail Steamship Line.

Hongkong 10th April, 1900.

Dear Sir,

In view of the expiry, in May 1901, of the contract at present in effect with H. B. M.'s Government for the carriage of mails from Hongkong by way of the Pacific and Vancouver, B.C., I would ask if you could arrange for the passing of a resolution by your chamber urging the desirability of renewing the contract in question. Such a resolution on the part of your chamber would, I feel sure, carry much weight with the British Government when negotiations are opened in connection with the matter.

I need hardly point out that, upon Pacific grounds, the maintenance of the service is all-important, forming as it does, an essentially British route throughout and capable of being used in any manner that circumstances may demand; and, further, I would call your particular attention to the great regularity with which the service has been carried on by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. during the past nine years—the period during which the existing contract has been running and also to the rapid transit given to the mails.

Your chamber may consider it desirable to go further than suggest merely a renewal of the contract by recommending the institution of a more frequent service, say fortnightly throughout the year, at a proportionate increase in the subsidy payable by the Government. Any such suggestions in this or in other directions will, I am sure, meet with the attention they deserve at the hands of the Government.

When the question of mail subsidy first came up in connection with this Company's Mail route your Committee very kindly took up the matter and urged upon the Government the desirability of instituting the service, and a reference to the Report of your Committee for the year ending 31st December, 1887, will show what transpired. Your present Committee will, doubtless, see their way to following up the representations then made, at the present time.

In conclusion, I would mention that a resolution has been passed at the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Chamber of Commerce at Yokohama, a copy of which is attached hereto, for your information. Resolutions to the same effect are in course of being passed at various other ports in China and Japan.

I am, sir,

Yours truly,

D. W. CRADDOCK

Acting General Agent.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Esq.,

Secretary,

General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong

Copy of Resolution passed unanimously at Annual Meeting of Foreign Chamber of Commerce.

Yokohama, March 29th 1900.

That in view of the quick Trans-Pacific Mail Service via Vancouver, so efficiently carried out by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Steamers, it is desirable in the opinion of this Chamber that the present Mail Contract with H. B. M.'s Government should be secured to arrange for a fortnightly service throughout the year, if possible, with a proportionate increase in the mail subsidy, as the continuance and extension of the service is of increasing importance in the general interests of trade.

Average Memo.—Hongkong and Yokohama to London.

Hongkong, Yokohama.

Canadian Pacific Railway	36 days	25 days
San Francisco Lines	42 days	31 days
North German Lloyd (via		
Naples)	29 days	40 days
M. M. Co. (via Marseilles)	31 days	41 days
P. & O. (Brindisi)	31 days	41 days

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

Hongkong, 20th April, 1900.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt on the 10th inst. of your letter of the 4th inst. calling attention to the expiry of your Company's contract with the Imperial Government to carry the mails from Hongkong to Canada in May.

1901, and asking if the Chamber could express an opinion in favour of the renewal by the Government of such contract.

The question was duly considered by the Committee, and at their meeting on the 18th inst. the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That in the opinion of this Chamber it is desirable the contract between Her Majesty's Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the carriage of mails from Hongkong via the Pacific and Vancouver, which will expire in May, 1901, should be renewed, if possible with an accelerated and fortnightly service."

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

D. W. CRADDOCK, Esq.,
Acting General Agent,
Canadian Pacific Railway Co.

THE VACANT SEAT ON THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Government House,
Hongkong, 17th April, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have granted to the Honourable T. H. Whitehead, Member of the Legislative Council, nine months' leave of absence from the 14th instant, and that there is therefore a vacancy in the Council which I desire should be filled without delay by one who, like Mr. Whitehead, will represent the interests of the Chamber of Commerce.

I have therefore to request you to be good enough to call a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce at an early date, and to submit to me the name of the gentleman whom the Chamber may desire to be appointed to the vacancy in question.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant

W. Y. GASCOIGNE,

Major-General,

Administering the Government.

The CHAIRMAN.

The Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st April, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., stating that you have granted nine months' leave of absence to the Honourable T. H. Whitehead, that there is now a vacancy in the Legislative Council which you desire to fill without delay, and asking to be informed of the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce with regard to the appointment.

Your letter was considered at the meeting of the General Committee on the 18th inst. when it was decided to bring the matter before the members at a special meeting to be held just before the annual meeting on the 30th inst., when the result will be promptly communicated to your Excellency.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(CHAIRMAN.)

His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne
C.M.G., Officer Administering the Government.

POSTAL COMPLAINT FROM MANILA.

Manila Chamber of Commerce.

Anloague, U.S.

Manila, 7th April, 1900.

Sir,

At a meeting of the Committee of the Manila Chamber of Commerce held yesterday, I was instructed to address a letter to you with a request that you would kindly draw the attention of the Postmaster General at your port to what seems on this side the unnecessary delay experienced here recently in the receipt of the European Mails from Hongkong.

In order to make the matter clear to you, I enclose a memorandum regarding the most recent cases complained of, and would ask you to lay some before the Postmaster in the hope that he will in future see that the Manila Mails are, when possible, put on board of steamers leaving Hongkong direct for Manila.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. CALDER SMITH,
Secretary.

R. C. WILCOX, Esq.,

Secretary.

The Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong.

Manila Chamber of Commerce.

Memorandum re Mails.

The London Mail of 16th February arrived in Hongkong on 17th March and delivery was begun at 12.50.

It arrived here (Manila) per *Diamante* via Amoy on 29th March.

If it had been sent direct per *Sungkiang* it would have arrived on 25th March.

The London Mail of 23rd February arrived in Hongkong on 26th March and delivery was begun at 10 a.m.

It arrived here (Manila) on the 4th April apparently by the U.S. transport *Newark*, whereas had it been sent by *Futami Maru* it would have arrived on the 1st inst.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 21st April, 1900.

Sir,

A communication has been received by this Chamber from the Manila Chamber of Commerce drawing attention to the unnecessary delay experienced there lately in the receipt of European Mails from Hongkong. In illustration of the grievance under which they are labouring, the Manila Chamber forwarded a memorandum giving the most recent cases of such delay (copy of which is enclosed), and express the hope that you will in future, when possible, put the mails on board of steamers leaving here for Manila direct.

Feeling sure that these representations will meet with favourable consideration,

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

E. C. LEWIS, Esq.,

Acting Postmaster General.

General Post Office,

Hongkong, 21st April, 1900.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date re delay in receipt at Manila of European mails forwarded by this office.

The matter had already been brought to my notice, and I lost no time in issuing such instructions as will prevent a recurrence of the cause of the complaint.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. CORNEWALL LEWIS,
Acting Postmaster General.

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Esq.

Secretary.

Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

ROBBERY ON BOARD THE "EMPRESS OF INDIA."

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST BRITISH SEAMEN.

At the Magistracy on the 24th inst. before Mr. Gompertz, Reuben Carr, boatswain's mate on the *Empress of India*, J. Adamson, T. Shay, Geo. Murray, and T. Collins, A.B.'s on board the same vessel, were charged with stealing \$900 odd; the property of a Chinese money changer named Yuen Fai in Yokohama Harbour on the 9th inst. It is alleged that when the Chinaman went on board the money was taken from him and that the prisoners subsequently divided it among themselves. The vessel was detained at Yokohama for three hours, during which time an investigation was made by the Japanese authorities, but the investigation was fruitless. Subsequently certain information came to the ears of the officers of the *Empress* which led to the arrest of the men named Carr, however, promised to turn Queen's evidence.

Mr. Gedge appeared for the prosecution. The Chinaman who was robbed has not yet reached the colony.

Reuben Carr was the first witness called. He said that about 10.30 a.m. on the 9th inst. he

was underneath the fore-castle head. He saw Adamson snatch a black bag from the shoulder of a Chinese money lender. Adamson passed the bag to Shay who went down the fore-castle with it. Murray stopped the money changer from pursuing him. Shortly afterwards someone told witness that the man who had the money was on the quarter-deck. He went there and found that Shay had the bag open and was putting the money into his pocket. He saw the white bag produced and some money in rolls. Shay handed him the bag produced and \$168 in silver. He went away and put it all in his bank. He offered the \$168 the next day to the lamp-trimmer, who, however, would have nothing to do with it. The money was afterwards divided between Shay, Murray, Adamson and himself. Collins also received \$23 as hush money. They divided the \$168 in a brothel in Ship street.

Mr. Hook, purser on board the *Empress of India*, said that on the 9th of April they were at Yokohama. A statement was made to him by a Chinaman, and he made out the paper produced giving a list of money. He had seen the white bag produced before. He first saw it in the cabin occupied by the boatswain and his mate. The boatswain's mate Carr took it out of the bunk underneath his bed. Captain Marshall, Mr. Beetham (chief officer), Boatswain Bird, and Carr were present at the time. He subsequently counted the money.

Captain Marshall, of the *Empress of India*, said that when the vessel arrived at Yokohama he went ashore and was not aboard when the theft was committed. He returned about 12.30, and shortly afterwards the Japanese authorities came on board and held an investigation. Adamson and Shay were called up before them. The men's quarters were searched by the Japanese authorities, but without result. The ship was detained three hours to enable them to do so. The ship then sailed for Kobe. He received certain information and acting upon it ordered Carr's quarters to be searched. The purser, chief officer, the boatswain, and Carr were present. The search was made on the 11th inst. They found the white bag produced. Carr was asked for an explanation, but he refused to give any. He took possession of the bag and gave Carr a receipt for it. He kept the bag till he arrived in Hongkong, when he handed it to the Captain Superintendent of Police. He identified the roll of notes produced as the roll which was given him by the Chief Officer. The *Empress* was to sail on Wednesday and would return in about seven weeks.

Mr. Beetham, chief officer on board the *Empress*, said that on the 9th inst. when the vessel was at Yokohama, a complaint was made to him by a couple of Chinamen. In consequence he went down to the fore-castle and looked round to see any sign of the bag, but failed. He ordered the ship's company on to the upper deck with the exception of the stewards and firemen. Carr and the other persons were there. The Chinamen pointed out Adamson and Shay. The men made a statement to him and then went away and returned with the Japanese authorities. Nothing was found before the ship sailed. Subsequently the roll of notes produced was handed to him by Boatswain Bird and he handed it to the captain. Before leaving Yokohama there was very little search in the fore-castle or in the ship by the Japanese authorities. Practically no search was made.

John Bird, boatswain on the *Empress*, said that on April the 16th he found some money in an oil-skin coat in the petty officers' lavatory. The coat belonged to the boatswain's mate—Reuben Carr. He gave the money to the Chief Officer without opening it.

The prisoners were remanded until Tuesday next, bail of \$1,000 each being allowed.

The evidence was repeated as against Carr and the further hearing was adjourned.

To judge from the local papers the state of Bangkok at the present time must be very bad. The cholera mortality is said to be increasing among the inhabitants, and the want of sanitation and of a pure water supply make the outlook gloomy. The water question is very urgent and there seems to be practical unanimity in the appeal to the Siamese Government to take this much-needed and urgent measure.

THE GHASTLY FIND AT KOWLOON.

THE INQUEST.

At the Magistracy on the 26th inst., Mr. Gompertz continued his enquiry into the circumstances connected into the death of Fakhira Khan, a private in the Hongkong Regiment, whose body, riddled with bullet holes, was found buried near the shooting range at Kowloon.

Hayat Khan, a private in "B" company of Hongkong Regiment, said he was on line duty the night Fakhira Khan disappeared. He did not remember the date. He was on sentry duty from 10 p.m. to 12 midnight. A little before midnight he saw Malang Khan coming from outside. He asked him where he had been and he replied to the latrine. He was on duty in front of No. 4 section. Malang Khan was coming from the direction of the Mosque. The urinal was on the other side—the north side, the mosque being on the south side. Malang Khan had a black turban on and dirty light clothing. He was sure he had his turban on. Some men put on their turban when they got up to go to the latrine. Shortly after Malang Khan came in he saw Mohamed Khan come in about 30 yards behind him. He came from the southwards, from the direction of the lower hospital block urinal. Witness challenged Mohamed Jehan. He asked him where he had been amusing himself in E Company. Witness did not notice how Mohamed Jehan was dressed. He did not see either of these men leave the mat-shed. Witness was in B Company, No. 1 section. Malang Khan was in No. 3 section of the same Company. Mohamed Jehan was in the same section of B Company. Witness made no report of what he had seen. It was a common thing in the Barracks for men to go out and come in again. He knew Fakhira Khan by sight. He did not see him that night. He did not see Saifullah that night.

Abdullah Khan, Subadar in D company, No. 1 section, said that Private Saifullah was in his section. Witness was in his section room the night Fakhira Khan disappeared. He was the orderly non-commissioned officer of the company. If the man wished to leave the section room after "Lights out" he had to ask permission. No one asked his permission to go out that night. He did not know whether anyone went out without leave. "Lights out" sounded at 9.45 p.m. At 9.45 p.m. everyone was in the section room, and he went to report all correct to the native officer of the company. On his way back to bed he struck a light and saw that Saifullah was lying on his bed in his quilt, Saifullah's bed being the third from witness. He struck a light because it was dark. He then went to sleep. He did not know when Saifullah came into the section room that night. He got up at reveille the next morning at 5 a.m. and took the roll call. Everyone was present. He was in hospital on the 24th March. Nay Khan came to see him on that day at 8 a.m. He said people suspected Saifullah, of his (witness's) section of having a revolver. He said the Subadar wished him to keep an eye on him and get the revolver if possible. He said nothing about the night Fakhira Khan disappeared. He did not say that witness was to see that Saifullah was in the section room all that night. He said nothing like that. He found no revolver belonging to Saifullah. He did not know whether Saifullah ever had a sword, stick or any other sharp weapon. Had he seen one he should have arrested him. Saifullah was private in witness's section. He did not know of any sword or stick belonging to anyone. He had not recently come from furlough. He had heard nothing about any sword sticks, but he heard that some men in the regiment had revolvers. He did not know that any men had had sword strokes brought from Japan. Saifullah never said anything about a body lying on the Race Course or about a naked body. He had heard that Saifullah and Fakhira Khan had had a quarrel, but he was on furlough at the time. He did not know that any man left the section room or came in that night. Two men of his section—Privates Madir Khan and Sandallah Khan—were on sentry that night from 9.45 to midnight and from 12 to two.

Other evidence was given and the enquiry was adjourned until Thursday next.

VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

THE ADA DELROY COMPANY.

Of the first performance of the Ada Delroy Company at the Theatre Royal on the 23rd inst., the opinion was generally expressed that it was the best show of the kind we have had in Hongkong for some time. The first part of the programme went without a hitch and was thoroughly enjoyed. A good start was made by Miss Ada Delroy and Mr. James Bell, who appeared in a "Musical Medley Melange," which was much applauded. Mr. Edward Ford, facial comedian, created roars of laughter by his clever and exceedingly funny facial contortions. Miss Maud Lita, who is the possessor of a most pleasing voice, was encored for a song admirably rendered by her. Miss Ada Delroy's serio-comic songs also evoked hearty applause. Mrs. James Bell's "Senegambian oddities," kept up the fun, which reached a climax when the concluding item in the first part of the programme was given—an extravagant farcical sketch by Mr. James Bell, supported by the company. The sketch is well-deserving of the title extravagant, but it was no less successful on that account. The second part of the programme should have opened with an exhibition of a series of animated subjects, by means of the London bioscope, an improvement on the cinematograph. These scenes were to include incidents in the South African War and were looked forward to with interest. Owing to the illness of the electrician, however, it was found impossible to work the apparatus, and Mr. Bell had to express his apologies for leaving the item out. In consequence of the lime-light effects not working smoothly, Miss D-roy's dances suffered somewhat. All the same they were loudly applauded, her latest triumph, "She" in the "Fire of Life," being especially good. Undoubtedly when the apparatus is set right the show will be well worth visiting, if only for these two items alone. A Xylophone solo by Miss Lizzie Leslie took well, but perhaps the most wonderful performance of the evening was that of "The White Mahatma," of which the following explanation is given to the public:—"The White Mahatma wishes it distinctly understood she does not claim any occult or supernatural power, the results produced are weird and bewildering, but the means employed, although at present not thoroughly understood by the mass of people, are perfectly natural, and may, in some future day, be utilised by scientific workers." The audience are invited to write down questions on slips of paper, and, having attached their signatures there, to put them in their pockets and keep them there. The "White Mahatma" is led on to the stage blindfolded, and while in that state she describes the different people who have written down questions, give their names, and answers their questions. Quite a number of prominent people were among the questioners on Monday evening, including Mr. M. W. Slade. We have no hesitation in saying that no one who visits the show will begrudge having done so.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

MAN-HUNTING IN THE PHILIPPINES—SEVERE FIGHTING IN MINDANAO.

Manila, April 17th.

The last two weeks have been sorry ones for the insurgents. Three big killings have been accomplished in northern Luzon, and Mindanao, the largest of the southern islands. The war has gradually come to be simply an extensive man-hunt. Conditions are seldom equal in any degree, and the great majority of cases are described, when one writes that a well-armed force of Americans attacked and defeated a fugitive band of insurgents, generally designated nowadays as *ladrones*. Occasionally, however, the Filipinos collect in such large numbers as to make a rather formidable command. In most cases the ammunition and guns are limited and the men that swell the numbers that appear so large in the reports of the officers, are chiefly armed with bolos.

On April 7th, just at sunrise, about one thousand Tagalos and Moros attacked the newly placed garrison at Cagayan, Mindanao. One hundred and fifty odd of this thousand were armed with rifles and the rest carried knives, bows and arrows or spears. They went up against four hundred Americans of the 40th U.S. Volunteer Infantry under Major Caste. The fight lasted about half an hour and then you couldn't find a live insurgent, even if millions depended upon it.

The enemy formed up on the outskirts of town, and just before the first rays of the sun were visible, the scouts commenced creeping forward toward the American camp. They surprised and killed three men who were on outpost duty and then as soon as the firing began, the whole outfit came charging into the town yelling and shouting like fiends. The troops tumbled out of the barracks and temporary quarters, carrying only their guns and belts, and robed for the most part in little more than the simple garb that nature provided. A lively bit of street fighting occurred and finally for a few moments the men were compelled to fall back into the public square. Here in the grey of dawn they fought it out, and when the insurgents began the retreat they left fifty dead in the plaza. Seven were killed within a few yards of the headquarters building. Many of the wounded managed to crawl into the various houses, but they were discovered later in the day. The Americans lost three killed and twelve wounded and among the latter was one officer, Captain Watson.

This is the first time that such serious trouble has occurred in Mindanao and it was hoped that fighting would be avoided in the great island. In view of the heavy defeat, the insurgents may be somewhat discouraged, but the Moro people are bad men to have as enemies.

A SUCCESSFUL TRAP.

In northern Luzon, Captain Dodd's troop of the third United States Cavalry, surrounded and successfully trapped about one hundred and eighty Filipinos. They were caught in their own stronghold in the mountains near Bangard, and as they were unable to escape they had to fight. The cavalry operated in two sections and brought the insurgent camp under a heavy cross fire. Fifty-three men were killed and a large number wounded. Forty-four were lucky enough to get a chance to surrender. Taking prisoners has rather gone out of fashion and frequently no one is allowed to surrender. It is a case of get out of reach or be killed. No American casualties were reported.

This morning reports reached headquarters, through General Young, that one hundred and six insurgents had been killed in a fight near Batoc in northern Luzon yesterday morning. The number of wounded was not given. These are indeed large killings, the heaviest that have taken place for months.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. MONTENEGRO.

At last General Montenegro has come into Manila. He is one of the best and most respected officers that have remained true to Aguinaldo. His last large fight was on the Gulf of Lingayen when he opposed the landing of General Wheaton. After Aguinaldo's forces split up he fell to wandering from place to place, driven about by the Americans until finally he decided it was best to become an "Amigo." Montenegro commanded the waterworks and the lines to the east of the city of Manila when the insurrection broke out. He spent many months in Hongkong and is well known among insurgent sympathizers.

Filipe Buencanino, one of the oldest of Aguinaldo's advisers, who has been a prisoner for several months in Manila, has been given his liberty.

The public jails which were so long crowded to the limit with insurgent prisoners are being gradually emptied. Most of the prisoners have been turned loose after spending several months as government guests.

THE CASE OF THE STEAMER "BELGICA."

Several days ago a story went the rounds of Manila that the steamer *Belgica*, chartered by the Philippine Trading Company, had been seized by Captain Brooke the press officer, notified the local papers that nothing was to be reported about the affair and also cut out references to

the steamer in the New York telegrams. Efforts have been made by the government officials to keep the matter quiet and the Philippine Trading Company refuses to give out any information or discuss the question in any form. In view of these facts very little is known as to the detention or seizure of the steamer, but the story among shipping circles is that the *Belgika* is charged with having entered several blockaded ports of the southern islands and there doing business when such transactions were forbidden. It is commonly asserted that, if the *Belgika* investigation is pushed to a finish, there are a dozen other Manila steamers that will find themselves in the same plight.

This morning a story was current that the *Belgika* had been fined \$50,000. A visit to M. Andre's office developed nothing, as that gentleman declined to be interviewed. The clerk stated that the matter was being investigated and for the present there was nothing they wished to make public.

As Mr. Andre is the Belgian Consul, some unscrupulous people have been endeavouring to develop governmental complications, but Mr. Andre's official capacity does not enter into the question in any manner whatever.

The *Belgika* has left her usual berth and is tied up to the southern bank of the Pasig River near the Bridge of Spain. She is high out of the water, but no cargo is being taken aboard.

MORE TROUBLE FOR MR. SPITZEL.

A Manila paper prints an account of the arrest of Mr. Louis Spitzel, Mr. Hookwold and Mr. Levi. An agent of the secret service detained the men at the Hotel Oriente and later brought them before the judge of the Provost Court, who released them on bail. The sum is mentioned at \$1,200 each. The charge is smuggling, based principally it seems on the fact that Mr. Spitzel had in his possession at the Hotel Oriente several thousand dollars worth of jewelry.

This is the second time that Mr. Spitzel has been before the authorities, and his visit to Manila has been anything but pleasant. During most of the time his actions have been more or less shadowed and people have pointed him out on the Sumata drives, where he usually spent the late hours of the afternoon, as the man who owned the "slibuster steamer *Abbey*" which is anchored just off the city front. Enemies in Manila, and, it is hinted, others in Hongkong, have aroused the local papers and furnished them with the subjects of unpleasant articles, besides agitating the government officials and secret service men.

Mrs. Spitzel is a man who always carries the indications of wealth with him, and his handsome diamonds and expensive jewelry are well known in Manila. Whether he is a diamond merchant or is simply fond of rare gems, cuts no great figure. It is likely that Mr. Spitzel will free himself from the present difficulty, though to-day very little is known about the case. To-day Mr. Spitzel is at the Oriente again, but every time he moves, two men in a carromata follow him.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 21st April.

The chief manager, Cheong Pat Si, of the Canton Railway Company, is expected to arrive shortly, being appointed by H.E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang as one of the directors in connection with the Bureau of Commerce. H.E. has also appointed him a manager of the Kingchow Mining Company.

There being a large number of thieves and pirates in the district of Kwong Ning, H.E. has sent the Black Flag soldiers to assist the Magistrate Yeang in making arrests. Also, to make complaints to a Magistrate easier than hitherto, he has ordered a gong to be hung up in the yamen; and whenever anybody has any grievance he may beat the gong, and the Magistrate will be ready to attend to his complaint, so that the yamen runners cannot exact any squeeze.

Here is one of the cases in which the captain and crew of steam launches are said to have combined with pirates to rob passengers. As a rule whenever a person takes a passage on a steam launch he has to submit to search for firearms by the captain and crew of

the boat, refusing to allow them to do so he has to pay a fine to the Customs, while if any firearm is found in his possession he is handed over to the Customs, and the arms are confiscated. On the 15th of March last one Leong Kai Cheong took passage on board the launch *Wing Shing*, from the village Yan Ping, to Canton, taking with him a sum of 400 odd taels. He went into the cabin and saw seven or eight suspicious-looking men there; whereupon he enquired of the captain who they were, the captain answering that they were the friends of the gunner. On arrival at Yew How these friends of the gunner, producing their revolvers, overawed and robbed all the passengers, and when they saw a mandarin boat coming the pilot on board steered the vessel along the shore and allowed them to escape. This has been brought to the notice of H.E. Li Hung-chang, who remarked that for want of positive proof to substantiate the charge of conspiracy further enquiry must be made. So also in the case of Bomanjee, of Canton, in which thirteen bales of cotton yarn were pirated, it is said that the captain and crew of the boat were also suspected of combining with the pirates to rob.

H.E. the late Viceroy Tan Chung Lun left Canton some time last year, and on account of old age and debility retired on leave to his native place. He is much improved in health and the Imperial Government having bestowed on him the double-eyed peacock's feather, he intends to proceed to Peking at the beginning of next month to have an audience, with a view, it is said, to the resumption of his official career. He is about 75 years of age.

H.E. the Viceroy Li has ordered an official of the Bureau of Commerce to go to Macao to purchase arms, and on the 20th inst. 5,002 rifles were shipped to Canton, and stored in the ammunition department for the use of the army.

The other day the perfect She had an interview with H.E. Li, who told him that whenever he gives orders he means business and them to be expected carried out at once. On his return to the yamen he gave similar orders to his subordinates, and to all the departments under his jurisdiction.

The late Punyin Magistrate, Pui, of Canton, was transferred to Swatow last year in the time of the late Viceroy Tan. He is now promoted to be the Magistrate of Nam Hoi district, and will take up his new post on the 2nd inst.

Not long ago Mr. Herbert Dent, of Canton, summoned Kwan Hung, father and son, of the Nam Lung shop, before the Nam Hoi Magistrate Yeong, for non-delivery of 100 bales of silk, on which damage claimed was \$8,500. On the 30th ult. the trial came on when the British Consul, the complainant, and his witnesses being present, judgment was given for the full amount. The other day, money being paid, the defendants were released.

At Lo Ting, in the district of Tung On, there are mountains, covered with dense woods and thick shrubs, at the foot of which some villagers live. On the 11th ult., as a woodcutter went into the heart of the woods to cut trees, he saw five tiger cubs lying asleep under the shade of trees. He looked round, but did not see the mother-tiger; she must have gone far in her stroll to seek food, so he took away the cubs and sold them in the market place for a few cents each. They were too small to eat anything and had to be fed with rice-gruel through a bamboo tube. The purchasers forgot the Chinese saying, "He who rears a tiger is breeding calamity."

Canton, 24th April.

News has reached Canton from a Chinese source with reference to the case of King Lien-shan to the effect that when he was Chief Manager of the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Office at Shanghai he had endowed the school for girls, the King-ching College, the Kung Tsai Hospital, and the Fong-shang Society, with large sums of money, and to enable him to do so he misappropriated, it is claimed, something like \$38,000, and it was for this reason that H.E. the Viceroy Li Hung-chang wired to H.E. the Governor of Macao to have him arrested, and handed over to the Chinese authorities. It is necessary, therefore, that the Chinese Government should send the present Chief Manager of the Telegraph Office or some responsible person to Macao to make out a *prima facie* case for the purpose of extradition. H.E. the Viceroy wired to the Chief Manager at Shanghai, Shing King Heong, to that effect, and he

arranged to send on the 8th ult. the prefect Yeong Tsz Hün to Macao; but as Yeong was afraid of the sea voyage he did not like to go alone, so he arranged with one Cheang To Chai, a *tatui*, to go with him. On the 7th ult. he bought the tickets, but on the 8th fell sick and could not go. The *tatui* Cheang disliked the distance, and stayed also. At last a prefect Cheong Pin Lin and a magistrate Chow Yik Wan, together with the accountant and other employees of the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Office, on the 11th inst. took passage on board the China Merchant steamer *Fushun* and proceeded to Macao.

FOOCHOW.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR CONVENTION.

The fifth national convention of Christian Endeavour for China was held in Foochow, April 5th-9th. English meetings were held at the C. M. S. Ladies' house, Thursday and Friday evenings and Sunday afternoon (April 5th, 6th and 8th).

Rev. Francis E. Clark, D.D., founder of the Christian Endeavour Society (in 1881) and editor of the *Christian Endeavour World*, came from the United States with Mrs. Clark and their son Harold (aged 12 years) to attend the Convention. Rev. Mr. Heywood, of Ningpo; Rev. Dr. Hallock, of Hangchow; Miss Burdick and Miss Posey, of Shanghai; Rev. D. W. Lyon, General Secretary of Y. M. C. A. of China, native delegates from North and South; and native and foreign delegates from many parts of Fukien province attended the Convention.

The delegates were warmly welcomed and made to feel at home during the whole convention. The churches in which the meetings were held were beautifully decorated with flags, flowers, mottoes, &c.

At the first meeting held in Tieng Ang Dong, 6th April, there were fifteen hundred people present; while the number present at the Junior Rally the next afternoon was estimated to be between eighteen hundred and two thousand.

Fourteen meetings were held, in each of which either Dr. Clark or Mrs. Clark spoke. A few of the subjects were:—The Christian Endeavour Pledge; The Quiet Hour; Origin of the Y.P.S.C.E.; Systematic Giving; and Consecration.

U. S. Consul Gracey's speech of welcome was most graceful. Very enjoyable were the addresses delivered by Rev. Mr. Heywood, Rev. Mr. Lyon, Mr. Ding, Mr. Ho, Mr. Li and others.

On Monday morning Dr. Clark spoke in glowing terms of the Convention, saying that this was the best Christian Endeavour Convention he had ever attended and this is saying much, for he has attended many Conventions in different parts of the world.

Speaking of the future of the C. E. work in China Dr. Clark asserted that C. E. in China is no longer an experiment, having been tested for fifteen years, and he said that when he returns to the United States in the fall he will do all in his power to obtain a National C. E. Secretary for China.

Dr. Clark urged that China's National C. E. Constitution be revised; that the C. E. work in China be districted; and urged the organization of C. E. societies in the villages.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows:—Rev. Geo. H. Hubbard, of Foochow, President; Rev. G. F. Fitch, of Shanghai, Vice-President; Miss S. M. Burdick, Shanghai, General Secretary; Miss E. S. Hartwell, Foochow, Editorial Secretary; Miss E. P. Kingsmill, Foochow, Treasurer.

A very pleasant reception was tendered Dr. and Mrs. Clark on Wednesday afternoon, April 11th. From Foochow Dr. and Mrs. Clark hope to go via Siberia to London to attend the World's Christian Endeavour Convention in July. —Contributed.

With reference to the scheme of a public school for the Chinese in Shanghai, which was approved by the ratepayers at their last meeting, *The Mercury* learns from a vernacular paper that at a meeting lately held of the most influential Chinese residents a committee of sixty persons was elected, each of whom pledged himself to collect Tls. 500, making in all Tls. 30,000, which is the sum required for the building.

BRIBERY AND THE CHINESE POPULATION.

(Daily Press, 23rd April.)

The Gambling Scandals of 1897, in which certain officers of the Police and other public servants were involved, came upon the colony like a thunder-clap and shook public confidence in the administration of public duties. Public officials upon whom the general body of this community had for years looked with respect were proved to be tainted with the crime of bribery and ignominiously dismissed the public service. It was felt that something must be done to quiet the public mind, restore confidence, and soothe away the grave suspicion of mistrust that existed as a natural result of these disclosures, in the mind of every thinking man in this colony. The Honourable F. H. MAY, Captain Superintendent of Police, addressed himself to a most distasteful task of clearing the Police from all suspected individuals connected with gambling, and of restoring public confidence in a body of men, who, by the misconduct of a few, were under the ban of public censure. We remember at the time the many hostile criticisms levelled against him; but he clung nobly to his duty and to the high plane to which doubtless in his own mind he felt the Police should attain, and well he succeeded in his results.

But the bribery revelations disclosed in 1897 discovered the fact that no one man's efforts alone could cleanse the Augean Stables of corruption, and that the Government itself must make some effort to prevent bribery in the future. The "Bribery and certain other Misdemeanors" Ordinance of 1898 was the result. As far as this ordinance is concerned bribery of public servants is dealt with in two sections only. Section 3 deals with the acceptance of a bribe by a public servant; but as we have no sympathy with a public servant who so abuses the public confidence placed in him as to accept a bribe, considering rather that he richly deserves his fate if the charge of bribery is brought home to him, we propose to confine our attention to section 4, which deals with the offering of a bribe to a public servant and reads as follows:— "Every person who gives, or offers, or causes or procures to be given or offered, to any public servant, any bribe, for himself or for any other person, with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant, or to incline him to do or to omit to do any act contrary to his duty as such public servant, or contrary to the rules of honesty and integrity, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on being convicted thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or to both."

This is a sweeping section and open to several grave objections. The terms are extremely general and the accusation against the alleged briber must of necessity be made by the prospective bribee, in most cases an officer of no great social standing. Moreover, a law which may be perfectly compatible with a high state of civilization and moral conduct, such as exists in England, may appear ludicrous when transplanted and administered to a people of low civilization and indifferent morality. The Chinese from time immemorial have been accustomed to offer bribes to state officials, and even in the highest civilized communities a small *donum* is often offered and received by the recipient to facilitate business. Percentages and bonuses are recognized perquisites in mercantile communities and are insisted upon and received.

In offering bribes to public officials the Chinese are only acting up to their traditions and doing what general merchants do, under finer sounding and less objectionable phraseology, in the usual transactions of their mercantile pursuits. Far be it from us to argue that Chinese should be at liberty to offer bribes to public officials, but their case from long association and dense ignorance requires milder treatment, and we question whether attempted bribery is not an offence that may not be conveniently dealt with by the Magistrate, without moving all the elaborate machinery of law so necessary for the trial of a case in the Supreme Court of Hongkong; for we observe in the schedule of offences under section 80 of the Magistrates' Ordinance that *Bribery* is excluded from Summary Jurisdiction, while no mention is made of *Attempted Bribery*. Perhaps this is a distinction too academical for our lay mind, but we commend it to the authorities that be.

The present sessions have revealed the difficulty of dealing with these comparatively minor cases of attempted bribery in the Supreme Court. Of five cases on the calendar no less than three were for attempted bribery, and these each for the sum of five dollars. In one the defendant failed to answer to his bail. In another one defendant was acquitted by the jury after a patient trial; and in the last case heard before His Lordship the Chief Justice the prisoner was acquitted on a flaw in the indictment, which Counsel so ably raised on section 4 of the Bribery Ordinance above quoted. The Court and jury were treated to a full day of forensic eloquence, quibbles and technicalities, and all over the immense sum of five dollars alleged to have been offered by the prisoner. Valuable time was wasted by the jury and all concerned, which could easily have been avoided, and perhaps equal justice dispensed, if the Magistrates were empowered to deal with such petty cases of attempted bribery.

THE WEST RIVER PIRACY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 24th April.)

There is a certain amount of satisfaction to be derived from the letter received last week by the Chamber of Commerce from the Acting Colonial Secretary, in which was enclosed an extract from a letter of Vice-Admiral Sir E. H. SEYMOUR, suggesting that one route from Samshui to the sea should be set apart, along which merchant vessels trading on the West River might count on the protection of British gunboats. We say "a certain amount of satisfaction," for half-measures can only serve temporarily while preparations are being made for dealing fully with the evil which it is proposed to remedy. It is something that, after a long and uninterrupted agitation against the disgraceful state of affairs on so important a road for trade as the West River, a responsible government should be prepared to guarantee the security of a section of the way. But the root of the evil still remains. The pirates will, it is only to be anticipated, keep quiet while the first fit of vigilance is on the guardians of the traffic. They may transfer their energies for a time to some more profitable quarter. But they will still be near, and we doubt whether anyone will care to predict that, as months pass by, an opportunity will not offer itself to bolder spirits among the robbers to evade the patrol and make an attempt in the forbidden waters. It will be said that the general suppression of

piracy is being dealt with gradually. Mr. BRODRICK, on the 19th ult., stated that the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station was taking the necessary steps in conjunction with the Viceroy Li HUNG-CHANG. This, of course, is no news, and a reiteration of the statement does not inspire any more confidence in the near approach of a solution of this question. We are prepared to believe that Li HUNG-CHANG is displaying vigour in the administration of Kwangtung—our Canton correspondent has pointed this out from time to time—but the machinery of Chinese government is too rusty to work well even if a man of energy is directing it. And Li HUNG-CHANG is old, even if willing to co-operate heartily with British efforts in this matter—a willingness which he has yet to prove. If we continue to show our habitual tenderness in dealing with slow-moving Chinese officialdom we shall have a weary time more to wait before we see a state of affairs existing which can be deemed a credit to our national interests. With the credit of Chinese administrators we are not concerned, though the actions of our Government seem often to suggest that we are. The Viceroy knows well how to extricate himself from difficult situation, even when forced to do the right thing against the will of the national bureaucracy. It is to be trusted, therefore, that when the protected route from Samshui to the sea has been decided on there will be no cessation of the demand for a speedy settlement of the main question, the suppression of piracy on the West River. By all means let a safe passage be guaranteed to merchants until the river itself is in a reasonable state of security. But there can be no indefinite postponement of the only real solution of the question. The pirates must be swept away altogether, and the sooner the better.

JAPAN'S FINANCIAL GROWTH.

(Daily Press, 25th April.)

That Japan was practically bankrupt at the period when she replaced the government of the Shogunate by that of the house of Mikados, was in those days known to comparatively few outside that charmed circle who found in her worst necessities their very breath of life. An amusing and instructive book could be founded, without exaggeration, on the peculiar relations which sprang up between the more advanced of the merchants and the Daimios, as the almost independent princes amongst whom the land was divided and who owed but a feudal allegiance to their senior, the Shogun, were called. The revolution was, in fact, brought about by financial even more than by social pressure, and it is a pity that amongst those who were engaged in the numerous, if sometimes questionable, transactions of the period, not one has essayed to hand down his experiences for the perusal of a future age. The time was unique, and brought out many of the better as well as of worst traits of human nature, and the truer the tale the more pathetic and dramatic would be the result. In 1600 the government of the day had promulgated a coinage system fairly in accordance with the requirements of the moment, but the country shortly afterwards was closed to the rest of the world, and the wants of the Shoguns, as they needed money, led them to the old abuse of degrading the coinage. Such a policy can have but one ending, and when Japan was forty years ago again opened to the trade of the world, the comparative values of the different metals had come to vary to an extreme degree from those prevailing in the world generally. Gold,

which elsewhere was valued at about sixteen, or more, times the price of silver, was in Japan only rated at eight and a half times its value, weight for weight. The consequence was that from the beginning gold commenced to leave the country in continually increasing quantities. The government of the day, when it woke up to the state of the case, became alarmed, and tried to stop the export; it knew little or nothing of the causes at work, and persistently took a wrong course in every measure it adopted to stem the difficulty. This brought upon it the hostility of the European Powers, who felt themselves compelled to act in a high-handed way, and often against their own feelings. The end of this was to increase still further the export; while at the same time a craze for following the lead given by the opening of trade was taken up, not wisely but too well, by the Daimios; each of whom arranged the fiscal matters of his own dependency irrespective of the central government, at that period administered by a Mayor of the Palace, in the person of the Shogun. As the fashion of the day decided, the craze ran on the most unexpected articles, each of which had to be imported at famine rates, and had to be paid for in gold. Steamers of every sort were bought up at prices far in excess of their value when new; nor did the craze end here, but ran on such strange commodities as, for instance, pigs and rabbits. To obtain the large amount of specie required to pay for these unproductive articles, the Daimios issued paper money, with the result that the small stock of specie which in the days when the Empire was closed to foreign intercourse was found sufficient rapidly became denuded, and the Daimios, one after another, finding themselves bankrupt were unable to fulfil their obligations to the Central Government; some of them, moreover, to tide over their difficulties commencing to issue forged money, so that affairs went from bad to worse. The only remedy in the position of affairs seemed to be to restore the Imperial power, and put an end to the confusion. The first steps were comparatively easy, as the government of the Shogun was unable to offer any effective opposition. The restored government found, however, that it had succeeded to an herculean task; it found the treasury empty, the country flooded with irredeemable paper money, the Empire bankrupt, and the people in a state bordering on rebellion. Its first enforced step was to assume the burden of the paper money, which had been issued by the Daimios without any precaution as to quantity, and with no provision for retirement, and the value of which had sunk in consequence to an enormous discount. To this end the government made an issue of paper of various face values, bearing no interest, but to be redeemed at the end of thirteen years; at about the same time it also made an issue of notes of smaller dimensions, to ease the distress heavily felt by the poorer classes, and to be exchangeable in proportion with the larger notes. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulty in collecting the revenue from year to year, the government was not in a position to redeem these issues when the time came; and instead of cancelling the notes, when presented they were re-issued as they came in. The task of reforming the feudal governments proved to be more difficult than the advisers of the Mikado had anticipated, and large portions of the country broke out in open rebellion. The government found itself at its wits' end, and to provide funds for its suppression, and not knowing any other way out of its troubles, had unfortunately resorted to another issue

of unconvertible paper; the palliation was but brief, and the downward path once adopted, the natural result followed, and the value falling continually owing to the over-issue, the government again found itself on the verge of bankruptcy. The remedy taken, or proposed to be taken, was one of those specious and ingenious paradoxes which we sometimes find propounded by men with more experience than had the Japanese ministers of the day. "The Government determined to issue Government bonds called *Kinsatsu* (paper money) exchange bonds, bearing six per cent. interest; the plan being to issue these in exchange for paper money, in order to withdraw the latter from circulation, and then to encourage the establishment of banks which should issue convertible notes on the security of these government bonds." The very necessities of the government were, in fact, to found the basis of security. Of course there are numerous instances of states, as of individuals, who make a practise of living on "the interest of their debts," and generally on the same plausible ground, that a state that owes so much must of necessity be very rich. The result was what might have been expected. The banks, denominated in imitation of the United States "National," were indeed started, but, as their entire capital consisted of these same *Kinsatsu*, which they were intended to replace, it need not be said that their existence was of the briefest, and the government had soon to take measures for bolstering up these intended buttresses of its stability. The result is told in words so naive and ingenuous that they are worth quoting. "The Government intended to retire all the Government paper money hitherto issued in exchange for these notes, but unfortunately that intention could not be carried out. For the specie was getting scarce, owing to the presence of the large amount of unconvertible notes, so that as soon as the convertible bank notes were issued, so much demand was made on the banks for exchange that these notes never obtained any extensive circulation; and no more than four national banks could be established." The end of this was that in 1871, while the entire amount of specie, of all kinds and descriptions, in Japan had fallen to an estimated sum of 51 million yen, the amount of paper money had grown to the large sum of 215 millions; or approximately, while the entire stock of coin in the country had fallen to 4s. 6d. per head of the population, the stock of practically irredeemable paper amounted (nominally) to 19s. per head. This was the darkest period of Japanese finance, and it is to the prudence and intelligence of a few of her statesmen that a gradual recovery from this depth of despond is to be attributed. The Government of Japan has recently issued from its Press the valuable *Report on the Adoption of the Gold Standard*, which we noticed the other day, containing the history of these preliminary struggles, written by Count MARSUKATA MASAYOSHI. This work is of interest, not only as containing a history of a very important period in the development of the Far East, but even further, from the intimate knowledge of financial science which it displays. Japan has attained such a high rank, now, amongst nations that she can afford, without taking any thought of former shame, to disclose her first infantile steps on the track of good finance, and it is useful as well as interesting to trace her upward progress from the state of despair in which she found herself in the early eighties, as set forth in the report.

THE COREAN CRISIS.

(Daily Press, 26th April.)

What is the exact state of affairs in Corea it is indeed difficult for anyone, except perhaps M. PAVLOV, to know. After the recent withdrawal by Russia of her extreme demands at Masampo many looked for a temporary lull in the storm of words which raged round the subject of the rival Powers in Corea. But the agitation had barely been allayed by Russia's withdrawal, when a fresh series of alarming rumours began to spring up, culminating in a story to the effect that, shortly after noon on the 29th ult., a squadron, consisting of twenty-seven vessels, including ironclads, cruisers, gunboats and torpedo-boats, belonging to the Russian Asiatic Squadron, appeared off Asan, Corea, and apparently went through some manoeuvres; that three Japanese warships, prepared for action, engaged on a certain service in connection with the manoeuvres now going on, just then appeared; and that after the squadrons had passed each other, and before they were a great distance apart, one of the Russian vessels suddenly fired a shot. Surprised by this unfriendly action, continued the report, the Japanese vessels changed their course and proceeded home with a view to reporting the fact. The Japanese naval authorities made a communication to the Russian Admiral, an order being issued to suspend the manoeuvres pending the settlement of the negotiations with the Russian Admiral. This story, which naturally had a most startling effect in Japan, proved to be absolutely unfounded, as may well be imagined. There is no Russian fleet of twenty-seven boats in the East, no Japanese men-of-war were near the Korean coast in connection with the manoeuvres, and the latter were not suspended. But rumours of this nature are flying broadcast at the present moment and find as credulous listeners as do rumours emanating from Peking. One piece of genuine news about Corea, which is sufficiently alarming but does not seem, on the face of it at least, to be connected with the Russo-Japanese, with question, is that insurgents have risen in the north of Chung Chong-do and south of Chulla-do and are, according to a Seoul dispatch, threatening to increase in force. The Korean Government has, it is added, issued instructions to the Governor of the districts disturbed. It is impossible at this stage to know how much weight to attach to the report, but it only wants such internal dissensions of a violent nature to precipitate the whole question of Corea's future. The see-saw of Russian and Japanese influence is proceeding in its usual fashion, Russia for the time being in the ascendant through the superior diplomacy of her representatives, it would seem. The *Japan Mail* in an article last week called in question some points of this diplomacy, it is true, and found Russian procedure regrettable and apparently ill-judged. "It assumes," said our contemporary, "the form of abortive agitation, which creates a general feeling of uneasiness throughout the Orient, and is not calculated, as far as we can perceive to procure any compensatory advantage whatever for Russia herself." These words referred particularly to the reported "ear-marking" of Kojé Island as Russian, and the virtual proclamation to the world that the Tsar's Government is bent on the acquisition sooner or later of a naval station on the southern coast of Corea. The *Japan Mail* protests that it has always given Russian diplomats credit for seeking to remove factors of friction and elements of alarm. "Indeed, her success

"in achieving great ends with a minimum of disturbance is a remarkable, and in some respects an admirable, spectacle. Her doings in Corea are therefore all the more difficult to understand. They are producing a feeling of deep unrest throughout the Orient, and their results are altogether incommensurate." But it can hardly be said that these results are seen at all yet. Some of the efforts are seen, others are suspected, but the real results are not likely to be revealed until they are fairly secured, as is Russia's invariable method of procedure. This is the great advantage which a government like that of Russia has over popular governments. Japan has embarked on a form of the latter, and she has to suffer from the disadvantages of popular discussion on foreign policy as well as enjoy the advantages of individual freedom.

SUPREME COURT.

April 20th, 1900.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON.
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO BRIBE.

Tsoi Tseung was charged that on the second of April he did unlawfully offer to one H. E. Wilmer, Inspector of Nuisances, a bribe of \$5 with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant.

The Attorney-General (the Hon W. Meigh Goodman), instructed by Messrs Dennys and Bowley, appeared for the prosecution and Mr. W. M. Slade (instructed by Mr. Heyes) for the prisoner.

Before the jury was empanelled, Mr. Slade moved the court to quash the indictment, on the ground that the offence was not stated with sufficient particularity. It was only put in general terms, whereas the particulars of the offence should be given. Mr. Slade proceeded to argue the point at some length and submitted that a prisoner was entitled to know the specific acts and the specific intent with which those acts were alleged to have been done which were charged against him. This was not a question of a mere matter of form, but was really a question of a matter of substance. To show the importance of the indictment being amended, from the prisoner's point of view, he might state that as the indictment stood a perfectly new case could be sprung upon the prisoner which did not appear on the indictment at all.

The Attorney-General said that in former days when punishments were very excessive a variety of technical objections were taken which in more modern times would be simply atrocious. It was felt that the punishment of death for felony was so very severe that if any loop-hole could be found for people to get through it used to be attained, such as the wrong spelling of a man's name; but he thought they had got to more enlightened times now. Section 4 of the Ordinance No. 3 of 1898 prohibited the offering of a bribe to any public servant, for either of three purposes, viz:—(a) with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant, (b) to incline him to do or omit to do an act contrary to his duty as such public servant, (c) to incline him to do any act contrary to the rules of honesty and integrity. In this case the indictment alleged the first of these three offences and set out the offence in the words of the Ordinance. The defendant's counsel wanted set out in the indictment in what way it was alleged the defendant wished the public servant's conduct to be influenced, that is to have it stated exactly what it was he was wanted to do. To insist on this was to require the prosecution to fathom the oriental mind of the accused more completely than the Attorney-General could profess to be able to do. What was wanted was such a particular allegation that the defendant would be able to adopt his defence to it and then say that he wanted to influence the conduct of the public servant in some slightly different way. Suppose a man had a dozen different applications with regard to land sent in

to the Director of Public Works, and then called on him and offered him \$1,000, it might be impossible to say which of the applications he had specially in view. He wanted to influence the conduct of the Director of Public Works as a public servant and incline him to consider his applications, or some of them favourably, but it might be impossible to prove exactly what he had in his mind. He submitted that to require the indictment to specify more than the Ordinance set out and required, would be to greatly mar the utility of the general words advisedly used in the Ordinance. Here the case had been committed by the Magistrate and the accused knew exactly what the Inspector of Nuisances had asked him to do, viz., to remove certain obstructions and, thereupon, he goes to the Inspector's house and offers him a bribe to influence his conduct as a public servant. He felt a difficulty in specifying exactly what he wanted the Inspector to do; probably it was to let him alone and not interfere with the obstructions or the accused; but if he alleged a certain intention in the indictment except an intention to influence the conduct of the Inspector as a Public Servant, he tied his hands and enabled the Counsel for the accused to make out some other, perhaps, equally objectionable, intention, which however would be outside the specifically limited charge. The tendency of wise modern legislation was to do away with the numerous petty technical objections to indictments which at one time found favour with the Courts when punishments were excessive. Continuing the Attorney-General said he thought the objection was taken because Mr. Slade was a little disappointed with the form of the indictment. His friend might be prepared with an elaborate argument to show that in regard to one of the three matters in question Wilmer had exceeded his duty in requiring the thing to be taken down. He did not wish to take up the elaborate argument as to what Wilmer's precise duties were in regard to all these matters, and he carefully omitted to say this bribe was given with a view to induce him not to do his duty. His friend did not like that form of indictment. He would much rather he had said the bribe was given to Wilmer with a view to induce him to do an act contrary to his duty. This would have laid upon his Lordship the onus of saying what the exact duty of Wilmer was. Therefore he charged him in the exact words of the Ordinance, that was that the bribe was given to Wilmer "with a view to influence his conduct as public servant." What the prisoner wanted was to prevent Wilmer from interfering with him at all.

Mr. Slade, in reply, said he only asked to have the facts on which the prosecution intended to rely. There was no question of elaborate indictment. All which was required was a short statement of facts in respect of which the man's conduct was being influenced.

His Lordship said the application to the court in this case was to quash the indictment in the first instance, and he might say at once that he thought there was no ground alleged why the indictment should be quashed. Then the next point was whether the indictment was too general ought and to be amended by stating with more particularity the offence charged against the defendant. That question turned to some extent on the construction of the Ordinance under which the indictment was laid. Section 4 of the Misdemeanours Punishment Ordinance of 1898 read as follows:—"Every person who gives or offers, or causes or procures to be given or offered, to any public servant any bribe for himself or for any other person, with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant, or to incline him to do or to omit to do, an act contrary to his duty as such public servant or contrary to the rules of honesty and integrity, shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and, being convicted thereof, shall be liable to imprisonment, with or without hard labour for any term not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to both." It appeared from this section that there were three specific cases in view—first to influence the conduct of a public servant as such public servant; secondly to incline him to do or to omit to do an act contrary to his duty as such public servant; and thirdly, to incline him to do any act contrary to the rules of honesty and integrity. Taking the

latter, the practice of the Court had properly been in regard to indictments, that they should set out definitely the act which it was sought to incline the public servant to do or to omit to do, and he thought that that was proper. The defendant was clearly informed what act it was which he had sought to incline the public servant to do or to omit to do, and he therefore was sufficiently informed as to the offence charged against him. As regarded the first of the three specified cases, the case where a bribe was offered with a view to influence the conduct of a public servant as such public servant, the question now was whether it was sufficient in framing an indictment to state the offence in merely general terms without directing the attention of the defendant to the specific matter with regard to which the conduct had reference. The general rule with regard to indictments was that they must contain sufficient particularity of allegation to enable the defendant to know what the charge was which he had to meet. There was no doubt that in recent years considerable changes had taken place in the practice of the law with regard to indictments. They all knew that at one time excessive particulars were insisted upon. Now a more reasonable rule prevailed, and it was sufficient if an indictment in substance contained a statement of fact which enabled the defendant to know definitely enough what was the charge which he had to answer. He had to consider in this case whether the present indictment disclosed the charge with sufficient particularity to enable the defendant to answer the charge. He must say that he did not think it did. He thought it was framed in too general terms. He thought the indictment ought to show the defendant what the matter was with reference to which he was charged with endeavouring to influence the public servant in his conduct.

The Attorney General suggested the addition to the indictment of the words "with regard to his action as regards certain obstructions in the public streets and side channels."

His Lordship, however, did not consider this sufficient, and suggested that the court should adjourn until two o'clock, so that in the meantime the Attorney-General should further consider the indictment and supply Mr. Slade with an amended copy.

This suggestion was adopted.

On the court reassembling the Attorney-General submitted the amended indictment as follows:—"That on the 2nd day of April, 1900, one Horace Edgar Wilmer was a public servant holding the office of Inspector of Nuisances in this colony, and one Tsoi Tseung was then engaged upon certain building operations at 386, 388, and 390, Queen's road West, at Victoria in this Colony and that on the day aforesaid the said Horace Edgar Wilmer as such public servant requested the said Tsoi Tseung to remove certain obstructions in Queen's road West and Chin Kwong street, caused by a matched and building materials apparently connected with such building operations, and thereupon the said Tsoi Tseung on the day aforesaid, but after such request had been made at Victoria in this colony, unlawfully did offer to the said H. E. Wilmer, the said H. E. Wilmer then being such public servant as aforesaid, a bribe, to wit the sum of \$5, with a view to influence the conduct of the said H. E. Wilmer as such public servant as aforesaid in relation to his action with regard to such obstructions as aforesaid."

Further argument then took place on another point raised by Mr. Slade. Mr. Slade contended that such nuisances as those mentioned here were nuisances dealt with by the Building Ordinance and not by the Public Health Ordinance, and that, therefore, Wilmer was not entitled to take proceedings in the case.

His Lordship said that this question was an important one for two reasons. First of all it involved an examination of the jurisdiction and power of the Sanitary Board and in consequence the jurisdiction and powers vested by them in the inspectors of nuisances and also the powers of nuisances by the Ordinance or the regulations made under the Ordinance. And secondly the question was important because it involved to some extent the operation of section 4 of the Ordinance. Therefore he felt that the matter required more careful consideration than he

could possibly give it at that moment. So he should take a little time to look into the Ordinance and see whether Mr. Slade's objection was well founded or not. The matter being an important one, as he had said, if the Attorney-General or Mr. Slade wished it he would refer the point for argument before the full court.

Counsel expressed as willing to leave the matter in his Lordship's hands.

His Lordship announced that he would give his decision on the following day.

April 21st.

The hearing of this case was resumed and his Lordship gave his decision on the point of law raised by Mr. Slade, the prisoner's counsel, the previous afternoon.

His Lordship said that when this indictment was first read Mr. Slade, on behalf of the defendant, took exception to it on the ground that it was too general in its terms and did not set forth the act in respect of which the conduct of the public servant (Inspector Wilmer) was said to have been influenced, or proposed to be influenced. After argument he supported Mr. Slade's objection and directed the indictment to be amended by setting forth the particular act in respect of which the conduct was said to be influenced. That was done and the indictment now quite clearly showed what were the matters in regard to which the public servant was acting, and in regard to which the defendant was alleged to have sought to influence his conduct. But Mr. Slade now took exception to the indictment, as amended, on the ground that it did not show any offence cognisable by the law—that the statement of particulars embodied in it now showed that the public servant was not acting within the scope of his powers, and that in fact he was not for the time being a public servant at all, and, therefore, an offer of a bribe to him, in respect of that matter, could not be said to influence his conduct as a public servant. It would be proper to consider what would be the effect of the indictment as it now stood. It set forth that Inspector Wilmer, the prosecutor, was a public servant and specifically held the office of Inspector of Nuisances; that the defendant was engaged in certain building operations in Victoria, and that on the date in question prosecutor, acting as such public servant, requested the defendant to remove certain obstructions of the nature of building materials which he had placed in the street, these obstructions being apparently connected with the building operations, and that thereupon the defendant offered to the prosecutor a bribe of £5, with a view to influence his conduct as such public servant aforesaid in reference to his action in regard to these obstructions. In regard to his action as regarded these obstructions it would be necessary on the trial of the indictment for the Crown to prove that the prosecutor held the office of Inspector of Nuisances and that in requesting the defendant to remove the obstructions in question he was acting within the scope of his powers as Inspector of Nuisances. If they failed in that proof then they failed in sustaining the indictment. Mr. Slade alleged, on an examination of the law relating to these matters, that it appeared that the action taken by the prosecutor was not within the scope of his powers as a public servant, that was as an Inspector of Nuisances. It would be advisable to examine the Ordinances bearing on this question, and one naturally turned, in the first instance to the Public Health Ordinance, because an Inspector of Nuisances was an officer of the Sanitary Board and was no doubt, *prima facie* charged with matters relating to the preservation of the public health. By section 9 of the Public Health Ordinance, 1887, provision was made for the appointment by the Governor of Inspectors of Nuisances. Nothing was there said as to their powers or duties. By section 12 power was given to the Sanitary Board to make Standing Orders for the guidance of its officers, amongst those officers being, as he had already said, inspectors of nuisances. By section 13 power was given to the Sanitary Board to make bye-laws with regard to a large number of matters affecting the public health. Amongst these matters, however, there was no specific mention of anything in the nature of removal of obstructions in the streets; in fact

nothing quite touching the present case. Then by section 16 a definition was given at some length of the word nuisance as used in the Ordinance. Amongst matters which were defined as nuisances within the meaning of the Ordinance were "Any act, omission or thing which is, or may be dangerous to life, or injurious to health or property." That was the only matter which seemed to touch the present point.

The Attorney-General—Section 16, sub-section 56, deals with surface-scavenging, including side channels.

His Lordship—No doubt that that would give them power, I suppose, to make bye-laws for the cleansing of side channels, and so on.

Mr. Slade said that bye-laws had been made under that section.

His Lordship said it was quite clear with regard to these powers that they might have been exercised in a very different way. The question was whether they had been exercised. Then with regard to the definition of the word "nuisance" contained in section 16, the Attorney-General drew attention to paragraph 5, which defined among nuisances:—"Any accumulation, or deposit of stagnant water, sullage-water, manure, dirt, house refuse, or other matter, wherever situated, which is unhealthy." Of course that clearly pointed to filth and so on in a general way, but the words "other matter" might be taken to include other things, but it must be subject to the proof that these things were unhealthy, and in this case if there had been an allegation in the indictment that these obstructions were there and were unhealthy it would have made the indictment correct in point of form, but it would have been subject to the proof that the sand and binding material were really unhealthy, and the indictment would have failed. The same observation applied to paragraph 9, which said, "Any act omission or thing which is, or may be, dangerous to health or property." There again, if these obstructions had been alleged to be injurious to health or property, they would have been nuisances within section 16 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1887, and the indictment would have been again correct in point of law, subject again also to the proof that these things were really in point of fact injurious to health or property. But no endeavour was made in the indictment to bring these obstructions within the meaning of the word "Nuisance" as defined in section 16. They were dealt with as nuisances of another character altogether. Under section 12 of the Public Health Ordinance of 1887 Standing Orders had been made by the Sanitary Board for the guidance of Inspectors of Nuisances in the performance of their duties. He had looked carefully through these Standing Orders and he did not find anything which bore directly on this present matter—nothing that gave power to the Inspectors of Nuisances to request the removal of, or in any way to deal with, obstructions on the streets, simply as obstructions. Turning to the Building Ordinance of 1889 his Lordship said that that Ordinance, of course, was mainly, if not entirely, concerned with the question of buildings in the colony and there was not the least doubt the officer charged with the carrying out, so to speak, of that Ordinance, was the Director of Public Works, who, he supposed, was the Surveyor-General, as he was formerly called. Section 57 of that Ordinance provided, "No public pathway, or thoroughfare shall, during the erection or repair of a building be occupied by a hoarding or scaffolding or by any building material whatever except by authority of the Surveyor-General, who may grant such authority on a written application and upon such conditions as will provide for the safety and convenience of passengers and the occupiers of adjoining property," etc. No doubt this was the very case that was contemplated by the indictment. That was to say there were building operations going on, there was a public pathway and thoroughfare occupied by building materials during the progress of the operations, and the Ordinance said that such a state of things shall not take place without the sanction in writing of the Surveyor-General, the Director of Public Works.

The Attorney-General (Mr. W. Meigh Goodman)—The latter part of that section I

attach importance to; about obstructing side channels.

His Lordship said that the latter part of the section read:—"In all such cases the ground occupied must be enclosed with a boarding for the protection of passengers, and due care shall be taken that the side channel shall be in no way obstructed by such boarding or by any building debris or building materials; nor shall the pavement, side channel or concrete covering of any public thoroughfare be broken up, or into, by the excavation of holes for the purpose of securing any boarding or scaffolding holes." There was a specific direction there that in the course of the erection or repair of a building due care was to be taken that the side channels were not to be obstructed by the boarding or by any building debris or building material. No doubt on the face of it it looked as if this indictment was contravention of this section. Then by section 77 of the Ordinance nuisances under the Ordinance were defined, and amongst those nuisances was the following:—"Every act, failure, neglect, omission or refusal, whereby any section of this Ordinance is contravened." It was quite clear then that contravening Section 57 with Section 77 (paragraph 3), leaving or placing building materials in the side channel, while a building was being erected or repaired, was a nuisance within the meaning of the Ordinance. Then Section 78 said what was to be done in the case of such nuisance—"In every case of a nuisance under this Ordinance, the Surveyor-General shall in the first instance serve a notice in the form contained in Schedule E to this Ordinance on the owner of the building or work in respect of which complaint is made, and such notice shall specify the nature of the nuisance and the manner and the time in which it is to be abated, and in the case of refusal or neglect to the requirements of such nature, the Surveyor-General shall summon such owner before a Magistrate, who may make an order directing such owner, whether he appear or not to the summons, to abate such nuisance within a time to be fixed by such Magistrate." That was the special procedure pointed out, and of course there were further proceedings which may be taken in default of compliance with the notice. The observation to be made with regard to this provision was that, as he had already said, this indictment seemed framed to meet some obstruction of the channel, or had the effect, at any rate, of meeting an offence constituted by the Buildings Ordinance of 1889. The question rose whether, that being so, the offence being contained in that Ordinance, an Inspector of Nuisances—an officer of the Sanitary Board—had any jurisdiction or power in respect of such offence. He confessed that he was unable to find that the Inspector had any such authority. On examination of the Ordinance he could not find that inspectors of nuisances—officers of the Sanitary Board—were vested with powers in any way with regard to these nuisances or in regard to any matter under the Buildings Ordinance, and it would be necessary, of course, that legislation or regulations should be made with a view to vesting them with powers of that kind. The Buildings Ordinance, *prima facie*, was outside the Sanitary Board's jurisdiction, and if they were to have powers under that Ordinance it would be necessary to confer those powers specifically. Although, therefore, this indictment might show an offence under the Building Ordinance, it did not show that the prosecutor, or Inspector of Nuisances, was acting in pursuance of any powers conferred on him by law. There was one other Ordinance to which he would refer, and that was the old Good Order and Cleanliness Ordinance of 1845. That Ordinance dealt with a large number of nuisances which might be described more or less as being police nuisances, affecting, not the public health but the public convenience. Quoting a passage from the enactment of 1845 in which it stated that persons would be liable to a penalty who set out, or left any scaffolding, bricks, lime, boxes, or cases of merchandise, or any other matter, or any thing which shall in any way obstruct the thoroughfare, his Lordship said that it was quite clear that bricks were in question. According to the indictment they were left on the channel at the side of the street and no doubt they would obstruct. That would be a nuisance within the meaning of this

Window Glass	per box.
Kerosene Oil	per 10-gal. case.
	2.86 to —

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 27th April, 11

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	111½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2.0
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	200½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145½
Bank, on demand	146½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	3½ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2½ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON HATAYIA.—	
On demand	117½
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	3 % pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2½ % pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	10.13
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine per tael	52.9½
BAR SILVER, per oz	27½

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—Business on the stock-market continues very dull and there is nothing of any importance to report. Rates during the week have ruled somewhat weaker, and the market closes with an inclination to lower rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai after very small sales at 316 per cent. on the early part of the week steadily fell to 310 per cent. premium without business. The London rate is advised privately at £58. 5s. 0d. sellers. Nationals have been on offer at \$28½, but buyers will not pay over \$28, so no business has resulted.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have ruled weak with sellers at \$54½ and reported sales at \$55. Straits have changed hands at \$0.85 and \$1 closing with small buyers at the latter rate. Unions are still enquired for and the rate has advanced to \$2.15, but shares still seem to be unobtainable. Cantons continue neglected. Yangtzes are on the market at quotations but without sales. North Chinas could be placed in small lots at \$1.40 ex dividends.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong are procurable at \$29½ after a small business at \$297½. China Fire have been placed at \$80, closing with sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have continued to rule steady at \$31½ to \$31½ with sales. Indos are still enquired for in a small way but only a few shares have changed hands at \$92. Douglasses are obtainable at \$50 with no sales. China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been on offer at \$129 without finding buyers and close at \$129 sellers. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINEING.—Punjoms continue quiet with sellers at 16½ after small sales at that rate. Oivers have changed hands at quotation and Great Eastern and Jelebu continue quiet with no business. Raubs continue weak at \$5½ with no business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks after a small sale at \$427½ close quieter with seller at \$495 Kowloon

Wharfs have changed hands at \$85 and \$85½ closing for at \$52 without bringing any shares on the market.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after further small sales at \$127 and \$126 are obtainable in small lots at \$125. Hotels remain quiet with only small sales at \$119 and \$118. West Points have been placed at \$47 and \$47½ and more are wanted at the latter rate. Humphreys declined to \$10.60 with a small business, but have since recovered and close at \$10.75 buyers.

COTTONS.—Hongkong have been on offer during the week at \$8 without sales. Northern quotations are taken from last Shanghai Circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have changed hands at \$31½, \$31½ and \$31½, closing with sellers at the last rate. China Borneos are enquired for at \$19. Electrics have found buyers at \$11½ and close in demand at that rate. Nothing further to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	110 p. ct. prem.—
China & Japan, ord.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$28½, sellers
Foun. Shares	£8	\$29, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$16, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$10.
China Sugar	\$100	\$12.9, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 70.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 375.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 57.
Hongkong	\$100	\$37, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$6½, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$31½.
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50.
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$11½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$165, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$118, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$166.
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$45½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$162½.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	195 p. ct. prem.—
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$180 sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$30.
China Traders'	\$25	\$54½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$95.
North-China	\$25	Tls. 165, ex div.
Straits	\$20	\$1, buyers
Union	\$50	\$245, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$126, ex div.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$125, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10.75, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$26, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$47½.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$40, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$300, sellers
Gt. Estn. & O'donian	\$5	2½ cts., buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	10 cts.
Jelebu	\$5	\$12½, buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	20 cents sellers
Oivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. B.	\$4½	\$4.25, sellers
Punjom	\$6	\$6½, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.30
Raubs	15s. 10d.	\$ 6½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$20½.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$100.
China Mutual Pref.	\$10	\$10.10.
China Ordinary	\$10	\$10.10, sellers
Do.	25	25 5s.
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$50, sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$30½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$92, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$100	\$250.
Star Ferry	\$7½	\$18½, buyers
Teloran Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3.
United Asbestos	\$2½	\$7, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$11.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$27½	\$52, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$10½, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$10.

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Alcinous (str.), Bengal (str.), Malacca (str.), Petroclius (str.), Machaon (str.), Candia (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Ernest Simons (str.), Malacca (str.), Normanna (str.).
For TRISTE.—Maria Valoris (str.).
For BREMEN.—Fries Heinrich (str.).
For LIVERPOOL DIRECT.—Idomeneus (str.), Ixion (str.).
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Königsberg (str.), Ambria (str.), Bamberg (str.), Sarnia (str.), Sambia (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C.—Glenogle (str.).
For VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of Japan (str.).
For PORTLAND, O.—Menmouthshire (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Gaelic (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.).
For NEW YORK.—St. Regulus (str.), Geo. T. Hay.
For SAN DIEGO AND KOBE.—Carlisle City (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Eastern (str.), Yawata Maru (str.), Tsinan (str.).
For SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.—Suisang (str.).
For BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Kagoshima Maru (str.).

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 27th April.—Freights Coastwise remain steady. At Saigon, 12 days quarantine is now imposed on all arrivals from Hongkong, and rates have in consequence advanced several cents; to this port 25 cents per picul is offered for prompt steamers to Philippines, 50 cents per picul; to Java, 50 cents Newchwang to Canton, 45 cents per picul has been done, and more tonnage is wanted at this figure. Java to this, 40 cents per picul is obtainable for wet sugar. Cal freights.—Mojito to Hongkong, \$2.80; to Singapore, \$3.15 per ton. Hongkong to Hongkong \$2.20 per ton. Sailing vessels.—The American ships L. Schepp and J. B. Walker have been chartered to load here for New York.

There is one vessel disengaged in port registering 1,999 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

McLaurin—American ship, 1,313 tons, proceeds Newcastle (N.S.W.) in ballast.
L. Schepp—American ship, 1,673 tons, Hongkong to New York, private terms.
J. B. Walker—American bark, 2,105 tons, hence to New York, private terms.
Else—German steamer, 903 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 45 cents per picul.
Decima—German steamer, 1,145 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 45 cents per picul.
Ixion—British steamer, 2,272 tons, Mojito to Hongkong, \$2.80 per ton.
Eskdale—British steamer, 1,926 tons, Mojito to Hongkong, \$2.80 per ton.
Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.
Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20½ cents per picul.
Tailes—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.
China—German steamer, 1,271 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.
Tayo Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,548 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.
Beureau—British steamer, 1,468 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24½ cents per picul.
Phiang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 27 cents per picul.
Namany—German steamer, 1,000 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 26 cents per picul.
Maria—German steamer, 1,111 tons, monthly, 6 months at \$2.50 per month, 12 months at \$2.00 per month.
Shantung—British steamer, 2,100 tons, monthly, 6 months at \$2.00 per month, 12 months at \$1.50 per month.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

April—

ARRIVALS.

20. Peiyang, German str., from Hongay.
 21. Glenogle, British str., from Tacoma.
 21. Maria Valerie, Austrian str., from Kobe.
 21. Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 21. Benvenue, British str., from Saigon.
 21. Phranang, British str., from Bangkok.
 21. Norma, British 4-m. bark, from Cardiff.
 21. Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
 21. Jason, British str., from Liverpool.
 21. Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 21. Hermes, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 22. Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
 22. Esang, British str., from Canton.
 22. Ayr, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
 22. China, German str., from Saigon.
 22. Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 22. Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
 22. Patroclus, British str., from Liverpool.
 22. Saint Irene, British str., from Portland.
 22. Seong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
 22. Tantalus, British str., from Liverpool.
 22. Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
 22. Wosang, British str., from Tientsin.
 22. Yarra, French str., from Yokohama.
 22. Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
 22. Zaire, Portuguese g.-bt., from Macao.
 23. Batoum, British str., from Shanghai.
 23. Esmeralda, British str., from Hoilo.
 23. Awa Maru, Japanese str., from Singapore.
 23. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 23. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
 23. Franz, Danish bark, from Cardiff.
 23. Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 24. Kansu, British str., from Canton.
 24. Michael Jensen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 24. Kwangping, Chinese str., from Tongku.
 24. Hailong, British str., from Swatow.
 24. Bellerophon, British str., from Straits.
 24. Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Kohsiang.
 24. Quarta, German str., from Saigon.
 24. Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 24. Sibiria, German str., from Japan.
 24. Carlisle City, British str., from Moji.
 25. Mikawa Maru, Japanese str., from Amoy.
 25. Biogo Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 25. Haishing, British str., from Coast Ports.
 25. Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
 25. Briak, British cruiser, from Weihaiwei.
 25. Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
 25. Benledi, British str., from Moji.
 25. Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 25. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
 25. Else, German str., from Chefoo.
 25. Trym, Norwegian str., from Newchwang.
 26. Decima, German str., from Saigon.
 26. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 26. Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 26. Formosa, British str., from Swatow.
 26. Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
 26. Chwshan, British str., from Saigon.
 26. Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
 26. Wuhu, British str., from Chinkiang.
 27. Glenfalloch, British str., from Straits.
 27. Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
 27. Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 27. Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from S. F. cisco.
 27. Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.

April—

DEPARTURES.

21. City of Peking, Amr. str., for S. F. cisco.
 21. Bankoku Maru, Japanese str., for Hongay.
 21. Tategami Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 21. Dirigo, Amr. ship, for Honolulu.
 21. Taiwan Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 21. Progress, Russian str., for Chefoo.
 21. Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 21. Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.
 21. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 21. Iburi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 21. Irene, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 21. Eskdale, British str., for Yokohama.
 21. Hermes, Norw. str., for Hongay.
 21. C. Apear, British str., for Calcutta.
 22. Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 22. Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
 22. Kweiyang, British str., for Swatow.
 22. Valkyrien, British bark, for Rajang.
 22. Triton, German str., for Saigon.
 22. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 22. Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
 22. Hailan, French str., for Hoilo.
 23. Yarra, French str., for Europe.
 23. Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.

23. Esang, British str., for Foochow.
 23. Maria Valerie, Austrian str., for Bombay.
 23. Edgar, British cruiser, for England.
 23. Bonaventure, British cruiser, for Manila.
 23. Surprise, Fr. g.-bt., for Kwangchowwan.
 23. Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 24. Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 24. Tacheong, German str., for Foochow.
 24. Clara, German str., for Hoilo.
 24. Patroclus, British str., for Shanghai.
 24. Tantalus, British str., for Shanghai.
 24. Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 24. Breconshire, British str., for Tacoma.
 24. Pronto, German str., for Chefoo.
 24. Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 24. Ayr, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
 24. Phoenix, British g.-bt., for Shanghai.
 24. Algerine, British sloop, for Nagasaki.
 25. Empress of India, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
 25. Seong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 25. Kiangsi, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.
 25. Menmuir, British str., for Manila.
 25. Awa Maru, Japanese str., for Yokohama.
 25. Loyal, German str., for Newchwang.
 25. Sibiria, German str., for Hamburg.
 25. Nesa, British str., for Newcastle.
 25. Kwangping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 25. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 25. Mausang, British str., for Gaya.
 25. Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 26. Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.
 26. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 26. Jason, British str., for Amoy.
 26. Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
 26. Lesbury, British str., for Singapore.
 26. Stanfield, British bark, for Rajang.
 26. Fausang, British str., for Singapore.
 26. Trym, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 27. Bellerophon, British str., for Amoy.
 27. China, German str., for Singapore.
 27. Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
 27. Phranang, British str., for Swatow.
 27. Bingo Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
 27. Nanyang, German str., for Saigon.
 27. City of Dublin, British str., for Bassein.
 27. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 27. Wosang, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Oceanien*, for Hongkong, from Bombay, Mr. Pierre Reveilhac, from Colombo, Mr. W. Noble, Mrs. André and son, Messrs. de Nostitz Wollavitz and P. Meller; from Singapore, Capt. D. J. Tulloch, Mr. J. O. Bergendahl, Mr. and Miss J. C. Lowe; from Saigon, Messrs. Portrat and Miller and Sister Marie.

Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. L. L. Day, Messrs. Leong Chin, G. E. Fraser, A. J. Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hoppin, Messrs. W. Margulis, Y. T. Leou, Comdr. A. H. Smith-Dorrien, Lieut. V. D. English, R.N., Mrs. M. Morgan, Miss E. Day, Miss Grace Star, Mr. Roger Lyons, Mrs. L. Wheaton, Messrs. George Thomas, C. M. Garnier, W. G. Hall, F. da Roza and Julius Hanan.

Per *Yarra*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Marques and infant and Mr. Son Tong; from Kobe, Messrs. Thiele and Ching Tak Wing, Mr. and Mrs. Gibson; from Shanghai, Messrs. B. Dalgy, Forbes, Tackey, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Conan; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Messrs. Hilles and J. Hay; for Suez, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Janovsky; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. K. Sawa, Hosebe, K. Awazu Shin, Mrs. and Miss Stenberg, Messrs. Hiyame, E. Oishi, Leost, Mr. and Mrs. Kastard, Mr. Martinelli; from Kobe, Messrs. Gh. Nitta, Yamanaka, Swamura, Mr. and Mrs. Kimura and Mr. Matsubaru; from Shanghai, Messrs. Dethive, Purves, Maitland, Pielot and Sioen.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama, Messrs. J. Hanco, A. H. Ellis, Capt. Rosa, Messrs. R. Goedkoop, M. S. Ellis, G. Betteridge, E. W. Arnold, Mrs. Abbott, children and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Frizell, child and amah, Mr. and Mrs. Ferrar and child, Miss Cochran, Miss G. A. O'Brien, Miss M. L. O'Brien, Messrs. T. Mason and P. Thomson.

Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Sergts. Ross and Moore, Mrs. Gail Simpson, Mrs. W. H. Sparks, Mr. B. Inglis and native servant, Mr. W. H. Geller, Mr. Porter and native servant, Mr. B. S. Cockburn, Dr. G. Flindin, Dr. Fether, Mrs. Scott; for Singapore, Dr. Brinkley; for Marseilles, Miss Wellstone; for London, the Marseilles, Mrs. Smith and

Mr. W. Bell; for London, Miss A. Bettinson, Miss Meller, Miss Pickles, Miss Jansen, Master Folke, Mrs. Short and native servant, Miss Short, Mr. K. H. Wilson, Mrs. Morgan, Miss and Master Morgan.

DEPARTED.

Per *City of Peking*, for Shanghai, Messrs. H. G. C. Hallock, Lum Kai Sang and native servant, Mrs. F. v. Massow, Mrs. Mok She, Mr. A. P. Stokes, Mrs. Chan See, Mrs. Lee She, Mr. Loo Fat Hing, Master Ying Yee Lau, two Misses Lum Lui, Messrs. S. Kasabe, F. McPherson, J. Budgen, Master Loo Kit and Master Loo But Moy; for Nagasaki, Lieut. Com. Bull. U.S.N., and Ensign H. Laning, U.S.N.; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. E. Walker, for Yokohama, Dr. F. and Mrs. Kruger, infant and 2 amahs, Master Kruger; for San Francisco, Dr. and Mrs. E. Lodge, Messrs. Li Au She, Lee Gap, Mrs. Lung So and infant, Miss Li Quai, Miss Lee Tooney Kan, Miss Gow Gan, Master Lee San, Mrs. John Carroll, Master Irene Carroll, Master John Carroll, Mr. John Carroll, Miss F. B. Puss McClure, Mr. George Ade, Mr. and Mrs. F. Lausen; for Minneapolis, Mrs. Caldren, Miss Edna Caldren, Master Arthur Caldren; for Pittsburg Pa. Mrs. E. H. Braddock, Mr. W. Braddock; for New York, Mr. C. Klinck, Master George Klinck; for London, Capt. Davidson Houston, Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Aelst, Mr. E. W. Hayward, Dr. Randolph Magnes, Mr. Broome L. Witts and Mr. H. Gill; for Havre, Mr. Pierre Blanc.

Per *Yarra*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Miss Gibson, Messrs. D. Walsh and F. G. Carpenter; for Colombo, Bro. Celvain, Bro. Philippe and Mr. H. P. Kinghorn; for Bombay, H. E. Senhor E. A. Rodriguez Galhardo, Mrs. Galhardo, Misses Eduarda and Carlota Galhardo, Capt. E. A. Marques, Lieut. J. G. Galhardo, Mrs. A. C. Cama, Messrs. A. B. Talati, D. Dorabjee, J. J. Vasanja, M. Birrento and X. A. Massasi; for Marseilles, Messrs. Dejean de la Batie, P. Bure and French sailors.

Per *Oceanien*, from Hongkong, for Shanghai, Messrs. Dong A Hei, Sa Nan Sin, Mr. and Mrs. Eisenstark; for Nagasaki, Mr. Cazalis; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. Ng Hin, Paymaster A. E. Ceibeth, Mr. F. S. Gomes; for Yokohama, Sister Regina.

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